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# CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES

Report of the Secretary-General

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# I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 17 October 1989, the General Assembly adopted resolution 44/7 entitled "Co-operation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States" whereby, inter alia, the Assembly requested the Secretariat of the United Nations and the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States, within their respective fields of competence, further to intensify their co-operation towards the realization of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the strengthening of international peace and security.

2. By the same resolution, the Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to strengthen co-operation and co-ordination between the United Nations and other organizations of the United Nations system and the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations in order to enhance their capacity to serve the mutual interests of the two organizations in the political, economic, social and cultural fields, and to continue to co-ordinate the follow-up action to facilitate the implementation of the proposals of a multilateral nature adopted at the Tunis meeting in 1983, and to take appropriate action regarding the multilateral proposals adopted at the Amman meeting in 1985, and at the Geneva meeting in 1988.

3. The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to arrange for a joint meeting to be held in 1990 between representatives of the organizations of the United Nations system and of the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations in order to review the progress achieved in the implementation of the multilateral proposals, especially those adopted at the Geneva meeting, and to develop a two-year programme of co-operation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States. It further requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its forty-fifth session a progress report on the implementation of the resolution.

4. The joint meeting between representatives of the organizations of the United Nations system and of the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations was held at Geneva from 18 to 20 July 1990 and its conclusions and recommendations are described in the addendum to the present report (A/45/481/Add.1).

# II. AGREEMENT OF CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES

5. Pursuant to paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 43/3 of 17 October 1988, a new agreement of co-operation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States was signed on 6 October 1989 by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States (LAS). As provided in article VIII of the agreement, its terms and provisions came into force upon signature.

## III. CONSULTATIONS AND EXCHANGES OF INFORMATION

6. During the period under review, the secretariats of the United Nations and the League of Arab States continued to maintain close contact, particularly on matters of mutual concern to the two organizations.

7. On 6 October 1989, the Secretary-General met Mr. Chadli Klibi, Secretary-General of LAS, at United Nations Headquarters. They took the opportunity to exchange views on matters of mutual interest, in particular the question of Palestine, the developments in the Middle East and the Iran-Iraq war.

8. On 3 October 1989, the Assistant Secretary-General of LAS called on the Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Questions, Regional Co-operation, Decolonization and Trusteeship to discuss ways and means of expanding co-operation between the two organizations.

9. On 12 December 1989, a meeting was held between representatives of the departments and offices of the United Nations and specialized agencies and a delegation of the League of Arab States, accompanied by the Permanent Observer for LAS to the United Nations and his Attaché. The meeting reviewed co-operation between the two organizations, discussed the joint meeting in 1990 and the two-year programme of co-operation called for in General Assembly resolution 44/7.

10. Consultations and exchanges of information have also taken place on a regular basis between the Department for Special Political Questions, Regional Co-operation, Decolonization and Trusteeship and the Office of the Permanent Observer for LAS to the United Nations concerning follow-up action on General Assembly resolutions as well as on matters relating to multilateral co-operation.

## IV. FOLLOW-UP ACTION ON MULTILATERAL PROPOSALS

11. At the meeting between representatives of the United Nationsm system and of the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations, held at Geneva from 29 June to 1 July 1988, a number of proposals were adopted for implementation through co-operation between the two organizations (see A/43/509/Add.1, sect. III). Some of those proposals call for action by two or more bodies of the United Nations system in co-operation with LAS and its specialized organizations. Action was initiated on these multilateral proposals in co-operation with interested organizations and agencies of the two systems. The following information, based on replies from organizations of the United Nations system in response to paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 44/7, summarizes progress made since the previous report (A/44/478, sect. IV).

## A. Population

12. As indicated in the reports of the Secretary-General (A/43/509 and Add.1 and A/44/478), the project entitled "Assistance to the Population Research and Training Unit - League of Arab States" is funded by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and executed by the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development of the Secretariat within the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States. In 1989, LAS appointed a director for the Population Research and Study Unit, and UNFPA approved and allocated funds for execution by the Department in the amount of $US 729,550 for three years ($US 196,800 for 1989, $US 269,000 for 1990 and $US 263,750 for 1991).

13. The objective of the project is to have the above unit, in due course, become a permanent institution within LAS to respond to the needs of the various bodies of the League for population data collection, research and study, and to serve the Arab countries in the formulation and implementation of population policies within the framework of their socio-economic development strategies and plans.

14. In November 1989, LAS organized a meeting of the heads of Arab population research centres (Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Palestine, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and Yemen), with resource persons and experts from agencies of the United Nations. The participants discussed the status of population research activities and initiatives in the Arab world, exchanged ideas on emerging needs and population issues in the region and collaborative modalities for supporting the demographic activities of the Population Research and Study Unit.

15. Following the meeting of the heads of Arab population research centres, a meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee to LAS was held at the LAS headquarters. The meeting was attended by representatives of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNFPA, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The Advisory Committee reviewed activities of the Population Research and Study Unit carried out during the past two years (1988-1989) and the workplan for the next two years (1990-1991) and made recommendations for improving the management of data collection and storage, upgrading the quality of analysis of research and development of population documentation and information system in the Unit for proper dissemination in the region.

16. Finally a tripartite review of the project took place at LAS aimed at assessing the performance of the project and at determining the workplan and the financial requirements for 1990-1991. The meeting was attended by the Under-Secretary-General for Social Affairs of LAS, representatives of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, UNDP and UNFPA. The meeting took into consideration the recommendations of the meeting of heads of Arab population research centres and the Advisory Committee of the Population Research and Study Unit in determining the future programme activities of the Unit.

17. The Department of International Economic and Social Affairs is involved in an ongoing project with the League's Population Research and Study Unit on the preparation and issuance of an Arabic version of the multilingual population thesaurus. Substantive preparatory work has been completed and the thesaurus is expected to be printed and distributed in the near future.

## B. Technical co-operation

### Technical co-operation with the United Nations Development Programme

18. Co-operation between UNDP and LAS and its specialized organizations has continued to grow, resulting in increased involvement of Arab regional organizations in the identification and implementation as well as in the co-financing of inter-country projects. UNDP has assisted LAS in the execution of regional project RAB/86/047, "Administrative Development of the Secretariat General of the League of Arab States". The UNDP contribution to the project is $US 1.5 million with cost-sharing financing mobilized from the Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organizations (AGFUND) of $US 600,000, an illustration of UNDP/LAS ongoing co-operation. The project's main objective is to strengthen the administrative capability of LAS to accomplish its task as a catalyst for regional, social and economic development.

19. Furthermore, and as a follow-up to its assistance for the establishment of the Arab League Documentation Centre (ALDOC) under RAB/79/030 (UNDP input was $US 2,877,137), UNDP is providing further assistance for the establishment of an Arab Regional Information System Network (ARISNET) under RAB/86/010; the UNDP contribution for the first phase is $US 400,000.

### Technical co-operation with the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

20. In the field of technical co-operation in the development and improvement of human settlements, during 1989 UNCHS executed 42 country-level projects covering settlement policies and strategies, settlement planning, shelter and community services, development of the indigenous construction sector, low-cost infrastructure for human settlements and human settlements institutions and management.

21. Projects at the regional level are geared towards building and strengthening the capacity of human settlements institutions in finance and management.

22. The overall budget for these projects was $US 11 million. In addition to executing the ongoing projects, the Centre has prepared six pipeline projects with an estimated budget of $US 4.4 million in response to specific requests from member States of LAS and in co-operation with the concerned Governments and UNDP.

23. In connection with these projects, the Centre secured and provided 37 fellowships/study tours for nationals of six member States of LAS. During the period 1988-1989, over 50 Arab experts and consultants from the Arab States were recruited by the Centre.

Technical co-operation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

24. FAO signed an agreement with the Arab Centre for the Study of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD) for the provision of funds for producing maps delineating the gypsiferous soils in the Middle Eastern countries of the region and developing a suitable legend based on the legend revised by FAO of the soil map of the world. Possible future technical co-operation with ACSAD in activities on land cover mapping, management of gypsiferous soils and monitoring of salt-affected soils is being examined by FAO. Technical assistance continued to be provided to the Arab Documentation and Information Centre of the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD), which is currently playing an effective role in the activities of the International Information System for the Agricultural Sciences and Technology (AGRIS) and the Current Agricultural Research Information System (CARIS) within the region. In co-operation with AOAD, a document on the strengthening and co-ordination of agricultural planning and policy formulation was prepared for the Arab Co-operation Council (ACC) to enhance the planning capabilities of, and to increase co-operation among, the Arab countries.

## C. Copyright and related matters

25. Since 1977, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) has undertaken various activities, including the organization of seminars on copyright, the training of officials in the field of copyright and the drafting of a copyright convention for the Arab countries. For other activities undertaken in 1988 and 1989, see document A/44/478, paragraphs 23 and 24.

26. Under the funds made available by UNDP, WIPO executed a regional project in the Arab countries entitled "Upgrading of Industrial Property Systems in Arab Countries" (RAB/83/021) and provided preparatory assistance for a regional project for Arab countries, entitled "Upgrading of Industrial Property Systems in Arab Countries, Phase II" (see A/44/478, para. 25). WIPO executed another regional project entitled "Establishment of a Patent Information and Documentation Unit (PIDU)" within the Federation of Arab Scientific Research Councils (FASRC) (RAB/84/032). The overall objective of this project, which is financed by UNDP, is to assist the Arab countries in their efforts to strengthen their economic development through the establishment of an appropriate infrastructure - including properly trained staff - for the collection, analysis and dissemination of technological information to the widest possible range of users in industry and research and development institutions.

27. In co-operation with the Government of Egypt, WIPO organized at Cairo, from 7 to 9 August 1989, the Regional Seminar on the Role and Use of Industrial Property in Economic and Technological Development for Arab Countries. Sixteen government officials from 9 Arab countries as well as 19 participants from Egypt were present. Two WIPO officials and two WIPO consultants from Jordan and Sweden served as lecturers at the seminar.



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28. WIPO assisted FASRC in translating into Arabic volume 9 of the International Patent Classification, which has been distributed to all Arab countries.

29. WIPO assisted the Co-operation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GOC) in the formulation of a draft uniform patent law for the States concerned and proposed the necessary implementing regulations for that law. WIPO also prepared proposals regarding the structure and financing of the central office, which will be in charge of patents in the GOC member States.

## D. Diversification of Arab economies

30. In the area of economic co-operation, the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) prepared a report entitled "Economic co-operation and integration efforts in the Arab region", which reviews the evolution of economic co-operation and integration at subregional and regional levels over the last two decades, including recent initiatives to form new groupings and establish preferential trading arrangements among countries in the region. UNCTAD also examines future prospects for economic co-operation and integration, focusing in particular on possible approaches to establish links between various subregional economic groupings, with the ultimate objective of establishing a regional common market.

31. At the invitation of UNDP, UNCTAD participated in the Seminar on the Promotion of Trade among the Countries of the Arab Maghreb Union, held at Tunis from 27 February to 1 March 1990. The seminar discussed ongoing efforts to promote economic co-operation and integration among countries of the Arab Maghreb region.

32. The General Secretariat of LAS has expressed willingness to be associated with UNCTAD in the preparation of the inter-sectoral study entitled "Prospects for sustained economic and social development in the occupied Palestinian territory (West Bank and Gaza Strip)". The UNCTAD secretariat has held consultations with the Arab Industrial Development Organization (AIDO) and AOAD regarding their collaboration in this study.

33. As part of the development of its data base and to meet the statistical requirements of the inter-sectoral study, UNCTAD had initiated action to establish a computerized time series on the economy of the occupied Palestinian territory.

34. In co-operation with UNDP, UNCTAD is planning to organize the Second Colloquium for Chambers of Commerce of Arab Countries and East European Countries to be held at Damascus in 1990. Further, in collaboration with the Federation of United Arab Emirates Chambers of Commerce and Industry and GCC, UNCTAD is planning to organize a subregional workshop on trade and economic co-operation between the Gulf countries and selected East European countries in November 1990.

## E. Food and agriculture

### Regional studies

35. FAO undertook several regional studies that are of direct relevance to the work of LAS. These include (a) agricultural price policies in the Near East; (b) intra-regional labour mobility and agricultural development in the Near East; (c) regional economic co-operation for agricultural development; (d) rural women and the changing socio-economic conditions; (e) nutritional aspects of infants and young children's foods; and (f) quality control and standardization of foods for infants and small children.

### Regional seminars, workshops and technical meetings

36. The collaboration between FAO and LAS continued through mutual participation in regional seminars, workshops and other technical meetings. FAO extended invitations to the LAS subsidiary bodies to participate in meetings of its statutory bodies. Representatives of ACSAD, the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) and AOAD participated in the Third General Conference of the Association of Agricultural Research Institutions in the Near East and North Africa (AARINENA), co-sponsored by FAO, the International Centre for Agricultural Research and Dry Areas (ICARDA) and the International Service for National Agricultural Research (ISNAR). AOAD also participated in the Third Technical Consultation on Arab AGRIS and CARIS centres and in the Global Consultation on Agricultural Extension organized by FAO. AOAD has contributed as a sponsor to the First International Conference on Soil Solarization, organized jointly by the University of Jordan and FAO. FAO participated in a seminar on agricultural price analysis and policy organized by the Economic Development Institute of the World Bank in collaboration with AOAD. In co-operation with the latter organization and AFESD, FAO prepared, funded and executed an agricultural statistical project in the Sudan. At the invitation of the Arab Federation of Food Industries, FAO participated in the Arab Symposium on Infant and Children's Foods and presented two studies on the nutritional aspects and on the quality control of children's foods.

### Training

37. National demonstration centres have been organized and conducted in co-operation with the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics. In co-operation with ACSAD, FAO will be operating a regional training project to train participants from 14 Arab countries in agro-ecological zone methodology and will provide financial support for these centres to organize a training course on fruit trees adapted to dry lands.

### Exchange of information

38. As in the past, co-operation between the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) and the LAS secretariat continued through the exchange of statistical information. Trade, production, fertilizer and fishery statistics yearbooks published by FAO were regularly dispatched to the LAS secretariat and its specialized organizations. FAO and LAS also exchanged information on fertilizer and plant nutrition.

Investment

39. A senior officer of the Investment Centre of FAO visited the headquarters of AFESD, the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (ABEDA) and the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) to discuss possibilities for increased co-operation in investment project formulation. During the period January 1989 to March 1990, 10 agricultural investment projects in countries of LAS were approved for financing by multilateral lending institutions. Total investments involved are estimated at $US 813 million. The projects are being financed by the World Bank, the International Development Association (IDA) and the United Nations Capital Development Fund with co-financing by AFESD, funds from Kuwait and the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), as well as French and German bilateral assistance and UNDP.

International Fund for Agricultural Development

40. IFAD strategy for the region during 1989 continued to support dryland farming and the development of low rainfall areas. The strategy is aimed at narrowing the food import gap, contributing to the creation of more employment opportunities and enhancing the living conditions of the region's poorest sector.

41. IFAD assistance for the rainfed areas maintained a balance between three types of projects: crop and livestock development (such as field crops and fruit trees); crop and livestock development in close association with environmental conservation (major components would carry out water and soil conservation works); and, in the rainfall areas, rangeland development associated with intensive livestock development.

IFAD loans to Arab countries

42. In 1989, IFAD approved four new projects for the Arab countries, two under the Fund's Regular Programme and two under its Special Programme for Sub-Saharan African Countries Affected by Drought and Desertification. The projects approved under the Regular Programme were the Bay Region Agricultural Development Project, Phase II, in Somalia ($US 11.37 million) and the Agricultural Credit Project in Yemen ($US 15.0 million). Under the Special Programme for Sub-Saharan African Countries, the IFAD Executive Board approved the Agro-Pastoral Development Project in Djibouti and the Agricultural Rehabilitation Programme, Phase II, in Mauritania.

Co-operation agreement with the Gulf Co-operation Council

43. During 1989, IFAD signed a co-operation agreement with GOC to strengthen its co-operation with Arab countries.

World Food Programme

44. The World Food Programme is providing food aid to a number of countries that are members of LAS to support development programmes as well as emergency

operations. There are 50 development projects currently operational in 13 countries. WFP aid is directed mainly towards the poorest segments of the rural population.

45. Food assistance is being given to support development projects under which (a) children from the poorest areas receive food; (b) pregnant and lactating mothers from poor rural areas are provided rations as an incentive to attend maternal and child health centres; and (c) assistance is given to food for work projects, which are mainly in support of agricultural development.

46. WFP is also making a major contribution by supporting emergency operations in seven members of LAS, the major recipients of which are Somalia and the Sudan.

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

47. Following the two seminars of 1988, ESCWA and the Arab Federation for Food Industry (AFFI), held a third at Baghdad from 9 to 22 June 1989 entitled "Arab Symposium on Child Nutrition and Related Food Industries'. ESCWA and the Arab Union for Fish Producers (AUFP) jointly prepared and organized the Arab Symposium on Planning for Development of Fish Farming, held at Baghdad from 12 to 14 March 1990. ESCWA and AOAD conducted joint activities, namely, a study on agricultural investment in some Arab countries, in October 1989 and a series of studies on the strengthening and co-ordination of agricultural planning among ACC countries. The studies will be implemented by the end of 1990.

48. AOAD is currently executing project RAB/89/027, "Strengthening Research Management in the Arab Countries". UNDP allocated $US 250,100 for the project, whose objective is to assist in upgrading the national capacities of the Arab countries in agricultural technology management systems studies and national/regional workshops.

49. Another project, RAB/89/024, "Development of Oilseed Crops", is being executed by AOAD with an allocation of $US 1,714,000 from UNDP. The overall objective of the project is to increase the production and productivity of oilseed crops in the participating Arab countries, in harmony with the national development plans of the countries concerned.

50. The Arab Fund is currently executing project RAB/89/026, "Increased Productivity of Barley Pasture and Sheep in the Critical Rainfall Zones", for which the allocation from UNDP is $US 2,457,320 and cost sharing by AFESD is $US 889,680. The objective of the project is to improve production of rainfed barley, forages, pastures and livestock in the average annual rainfall zones of the participating countries, as well as to promote effective collaboration among national research and extension institutions and establish a regional research network involving national programmes.

51. AFESD and UNDP are sharing on an equal basis the cost ($US 250,000) of project RAB/89/015, "Study on Economics of Barley in Middle East and North Africa - Prospects and Policy Implications". AFESD is the executing agency of the research study, which was proposed by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and aims at the enhancement of food security in the Arab region.

## F. Development of industry

52. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) has continued its close co-operation with LAS through the Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organization (AIDMO), 1/ the Arab Railways Union (ARU), the Arab Union for Cement and Building Materials (AUCBM) and the Arab Iron and Steel Union (AISU).

53. A joint communiqué on UNIDO/AIDO co-operation signed in June 1989 cites various types of technical co-operation which includes the following:

(a) Development of a human resources strategy for Arab countries in the field of industrialization;

(b) Regional workshop on industrial maintenance;

(c) Regional workshop on industrial information and documentation;

(d) Workshop on industrial project preparation, evaluation and the application of the Computer Model for Feasibility Analysis and Reporting (COMFAR);

(e) Techno-economic feasibility study in the manufacturing of spare parts in the textile industry in the Arab region;

(f) Promotion for the establishment of Pan-Arab industrial projects;

(g) Efficiency improvement programme;

(h) Industrial surveys;

(i) Industrial standardization;

(j) Updating and translation into Arabic of the Feasibility Studies Manual.

54. UNIDO has entered into a sub-contract agreement with AIDO to prepare the guidelines and areas of activities for the Special Programme for Industrial Development in the Arab Countries, established at the fifth session of the Industrial Development Board of UNIDO by decision IDB.5/Dec.26 of July 1989.

55. UNIDO has contributed financially and has made technical inputs (seven country studies) to the Seventh Ministerial Conference of AIDO, held at Tunis in October 1989.

56. UNIDO has approved assistance for the establishment of a data bank at the headquarters of the Arab Railways Union. Another project proposal has recently been identified for further co-operation between UNIDO and ARU.

57. UNIDO has supported the Seminar on Cement Industry in the Arab region held by the Arab Union for Cement and Building Materials at Damascus in November 1989. Furthermore, UNIDO is considering new proposals for future co-operation with the Union, including financial and technical contributions to its seventh conference to be held at Fez, Morocco, in November 1990.

58. In co-operation with AISU and UNDP, preparations are under way to formulate a document for a regional project in the field of computerized management system in metallurgical industry.

59. During 1989, ESCWA continued its co-operation with AIDO in undertaking joint projects relating to a feasibility study on diesel engines and components and the establishment of engineering infrastructure industries in Arab States.

60. The purpose of the project is to help in the development of the engineering industry through an analysis of the region's intermediate market and to formulate programmes and identify specific investment projects and create new capacities. The project is scheduled for completion in 1990. The UNDP input to this project is $US 260,000. AIDO is one of the four agencies that have contributed to the total cost sharing of the project, which amounts to $US 410,000.

61. As part of its substantive contribution to the Seventh Arab Industrial Development Conference, held at Tunis in September 1989, ESCWA has prepared for AIDO four country papers plus a project profile on boilers.

62. ESCWA has participated in the activities of LAS pertaining to the formulation of the Arab Transport Strategy (1989), and has taken part in the fourth and fifth sessions of the Arab Transport Ministers, held at Tunis and Baghdad in 1988 and 1989, respectively, and in the LAS meeting on the preparatory work on Arab seaborne trade, held at Tunis in December 1989.

63. Seven project proposals in the transport field were prepared and communicated to LAS in March 1990.

## G. Maritime transport

64. The following information refers to a number of national and regional projects in the fields of maritime training, maritime safety, inland water transportation, post management, maritime administration and combating oil pollution.

### National activities

### Algeria

65. Under the project "Maritime Safety", three fellowships were awarded for study at the World Maritime University. Training of Algerian cadres also continued in the field of management of ship operations, and study tours were undertaken in the fields of ship inspection and multimodal transport safety. Further training equipment and technical publications were provided to the Higher Maritime Institute, Bou-Ismail, which has become a branch of the World Maritime University.

66. In 1989 UNDP approved the project on "Specialized Training of Seafaring and Technical Shore-based Personnel" to upgrade the skills of technical and teaching personnel in Algeria. Three International Maritime Organization (IMO) model courses were conducted at the Higher Maritime Institute, Bou-Ismail, with provision

for training aids and equipment, and the training of teachers in oil tanker familiarization, planned fleet maintenance and hull protection, and port state control. Two teachers from the Institute also participated at the IMO model course on port state control implemented by the Higher Institute for Maritime Studies, Casablanca, Morocco.

Democratic Yemen 2/

67. Under the project "Maritime Training", the Maritime Training Centre at Aden was inaugurated in 1989. An engineering lecturer and further training aids and equipment were supplied. Courses conducted for the maritime sector personnel included English language courses. Training of teachers continued at the World Maritime University with two more students enrolling.

68. A new project on the "Preparation of a Plan of Action for the Yemen Ports Authority" was approved by UNDP in 1989 to support the Government's programme for the expansion/modernization of the Port of Aden, which is financed by funds from Abu Dhabi, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. Under the UNDP-financed project, IMO prepared a plan of action covering the consultancies and training required by the Yemen Ports Authority. A project document has been prepared for approval, and implementation of this new large-scale project should begin in 1990 in co-operation with UNCTAD.

Egypt

69. The IMO Senior Adviser on Ports visited the Alexandria Maritime Transport Academy in August 1989 and reviewed the Academy's curricula, course contents and admission procedures, provided advice on the undergraduate, certificate of competency and diploma programmes, and developed course details for fleet management and management of traffic systems. The Adviser conducted four seminars on inland water transportation, intermodal transport, port management and port planning, and provided advice on the use of the Alexandria and Damietta-Cairo canals.

Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

70. The IMO Interregional Consultant on Maritime Training (Engineering) undertook two missions to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in January and December 1989. In the first mission, the IMO Consultant developed a programme for the regular conduct of IMO model courses covering three mandatory subjects under the 1978 International Convention concerning Standards of Training Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (basic fire-fighting, oil tanker familiarization and personal survival). Financing will now be sought for the implementation of this programme. In the second mission, the IMO Consultant reviewed the credit hour system, curricula and syllabuses of the Academy of Maritime Studies, Tripoli. A programme for their revision by the Academy and IMO was established and will be implemented in 1990.

Morocco

71. Under the government-executed project "Training of Trainers", IMO was awarded a sub-contract in 1989 to implement the IMO model course on port state control at the Higher Institute for Maritime Studies, Casablanca, which has become a branch of the World Maritime University. The course, which was aimed at training sector personnel, including maritime teachers, was attended by participants from Algeria, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia.

72. The IMO Interregional Consultant on Technical Port Operations visited Morocco in March 1990 to assess the training needs of technical personnel responsible for the maintenance of lighthouse, buoyage and aids to navigation. A proposal for a programme of training for technicians, which would include study-tours, seminars and formal training at basic and specialized levels, was subsequently presented.

Somalia

73. The objective of the project "Maritime Training" is to provide highly specialized training at the World Maritime University and other centres for senior maritime officials. In 1989, two more students enrolled at the University and one fellowship was awarded to the inaugural class of the IMO International Maritime Law Institute, Valletta.

Tunisia

74. The IMO Interregional Consultant on Maritime Safety Administration visited Tunisia in September 1989 to prepare a project proposal to establish a centre for maritime studies, research and documentation; define the training needs of officers of the maritime administration, the shipping companies and the ports; and define measures to be implemented in order to improve the safety of fishing vessels and pleasure craft.

United Arab Emirates

75. The IMO Interregional Consultant on Maritime Safety Administration visited the United Arab Emirates in March/April 1989 to review the activities of the Department of Maritime Affairs particularly in the fields of vessel registration and inspection. The IMO Consultant prepared a plan of action for the establishment of a marine safety division within the Department and the recruitment of qualified personnel to serve as inspectors and surveyors.

Regional activities

Assistance to the Association of African Maritime Training Institutes

76. During 1989, a new member (Somalia) joined the other four Arab members of the Association. Draft common guidelines on maritime training, examination and certification continued to be prepared, which will be adopted at an IMO/AAMTI Congress scheduled for late 1990. Fact-finding tours were undertaken to identify the development needs of the members, potential technical co-operation among

developing countries (TCDC) activities, and the requirements for the creation of a common data base. A seminar for directors of member institutes was held at Mombassa, Kenya, on the implementation of the 1978 International Convention concerning Standards of Training Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers and IMO model courses. Three IMO model courses for teachers of member institutes were held as follows: Training of Trainers at Alexandria, Egypt; port state control at Abidjan, and Search and Rescue Co-ordinator Surface Search at Accra. Training aids were provided and promotional/reference material on the Association was published.

Regional training at the Arab Maritime Transport Academy, Sharjah

77. This project constitutes a new phase of IMO assistance to the Arab Maritime Transport Academy, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, which has now become a branch of the World Maritime University. In 1989 the project activities included a visit to the Academy by the Principal Consultant to finalize work plans, identify equipment requirements and make preparations for regional activities. A main feature of the 1989 activities was therefore the conduct of the IMO model course on port state control, which was organized on a regional basis. In addition, three Academy lecturers were awarded fellowships in the fields of technical maritime English and automatic engine control, and one lecturer was awarded a fellowship to the inaugural class of the IMO International Maritime Law Institute, Valletta.

Gulf of Aden Subregional Training and Response Centre for Combating Oil Pollution

78. Following the preparation of the Centre's operational plan, in January 1989, an IMO advisory mission visited the three participating countries (Democratic Yemen, 2/ Djibouti and Somalia) to identify the Centre's equipment requirements, taking account of materials and facilities available in the area. Djibouti has allocated the site for the Centre and equipment has been ordered, which will be delivered in 1990. A conference among the three countries will be convened in 1990 to approve a draft agreement on co-operation among the countries and a draft subregional contingency plan to combat spillages of oil and other harmful substances.

Global activities

World Maritime University

79. Under this project, UNDP provides institutional support to the World Maritime University at Malmo, Sweden. Since its inception in 1983, a total of 87 students from the Arab States have completed their post-graduate studies at the University. In 1989, 19 Arab students joined the University and will graduate at the end of 1990.

80. The Arab Maritime Transport Academy is currently the Government implementing agency of project RAB/88/010 (formerly RAB/84/028), "Regional Training at AMTA (Sharjah)", which aims at promoting the establishment of a network of mutually supporting training institutions within the region and the development of AMTA as a regional resource centre. The UNDP allocation to the project is $US 200,000.

81. In the area of maritime transport, the UNDP/UNCTAD TRAINMAR programme has been operating since 1980 to strengthen local, national and regional training centres world-wide in order to provide effective training in maritime management. TRAINMAR projects in Arab countries have been based in Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Tunis and the United Arab Emirates. Each now has an operating TRAINMAR centre able to satisfy local training needs and co-operating with the others to expand the quality and scale of training available in the region. Since September 1989, a regional project has been based at the Arab Maritime Transport Academy, Sharjah, financed on an equal basis by the Academy and UNDP. With rare exceptions, all project activities are carried out with personnel from member States of LAS.

## H. Child care

82. LAS and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) work closely together to exchange information and to plan joint endeavours for children in the Arab region in the 1990s and to monitor ongoing projects.

83. UNICEF participated in the Arab Council of Health Ministers and the Arab Council of Social Affairs Ministers. In 1988 the two councils had requested member States to reduce infant mortality rates to less than half in the Arab world by 1990. This has now been achieved in most countries in the region - 10 years ahead of the target date set by the United Nations.

84. UNICEF, UNESCO, UNDP and the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) co-operated closely in the preparation of the Education for All Regional Consultation, held at Amman in November 1989, and the World Conference Education for All, held at Jomtien, Thailand, in March 1990. The Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) covered travel and accommodation expenses for all government officials from the Arab region.

85. UNICEF and LAS co-operated in urging member States to ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child to ensure smooth passage through the General Assembly.

86. LAS and UNICEF continued to work closely for the Pan-Arab Project for Child Development, which is co-ordinated and hosted by LAS. UNICEF participated in the project as a donor and member of the technical and higher steering committee. A series of child health surveys are being conducted in several Arab countries.

87. In preparation for the World Summit for Children scheduled to take place in September 1990, UNICEF, together with LAS and the Arab Council for Childhood Development (ACCD), has planned a series of activities at the regional level to brief Arab Heads of State on achievements in the region in the last decade, challenges to the region during this decade and issues that can be proposed by this region for global action in the nineties.

88. LAS and UNICEF continued to exchange available information and materials relating to mothers and children, as well as to share programmes and materials for television, radio and other media prepared by each agency.

89. UNICEF assisted LAS in providing information and data on the situation of children in the Arab region.

90. UNICEF, LAS and AGFUND are co-operating on a project to strengthen the role of Arab non-governmental organizations in the field of social development, and to enhance their contribution to programmes benefiting mothers and children.

91. Since 1988 UNICEF has supported the Pan-Arab Project for Child Development (PAPCHILD), which operates under the aegis of LAS and which receives financial and technical support from AGFUND as well as from UNFPA. This series of country health surveys aims at examining the health status of children and mothers in the Arab world and at training national professionals. Among the United Nations agencies UNFPA plays the leading role of project co-ordinator. UNICEF financial support covers much of the in-country survey costs of the PAPCHILD surveys, which make up phase I of the project, in the six countries of LAS. In addition to providing financial support to the UNICEF country offices where the survey work takes place, the UNICEF Regional Office gives technical backstopping and support to the project.

92. PAPCHILD is aimed at giving current readings on the levels of infant and child mortality, the determinants of child mortality and the health status of children, as well as the health status of mothers. It fits closely with UNICEF's global priorities for the 1990s. In collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF has set a series of goals and objectives in child and maternal health to be achieved globally by the year 2000. The overall goals include the reduction of the infant and child mortality levels by one third by the year 2000 and the reduction of the current maternal mortality by one half, as well as the reduction of the incidence of specific diseases. Providing basic education equally to all children, both boys and girls, as well as dramatically reducing female illiteracy, are other goals that stress education not only as a key intermediate determinant of child and maternal health status, but also as a human right.

93. Understanding the determinants of current trends in the Arab world as well as following each country's progress towards realizing these objectives are preoccupations of many Arab States, their leaders and health managers. UNICEF is providing support for this work, to the surveys themselves and to the PAPCHILD Technical Advisory Committee. From its Global Reserve for Monitoring Progress in Child Survival and Development during the 1990s, UNICEF is also providing additional analytical and technical services to both PAPCHILD, based at the Arab League in Tunisia and to the Gulf Health Surveys initiated by the Health Ministers of GCC. These surveys, begun in the Gulf States in 1985, have now been completed in all countries of the Gulf. Their objectives and results set the stage for PAPCHILD.

94. Through the services of a consultant at the Population Council at Cairo, UNICEF provides assistance to ensure that the survey findings are thoroughly explored for the insights they can provide Governments to assist them in health planning. Speeding up the production of results to assist policy-makers is one of UNICEF's special concerns. From this experience UNICEF also provides technical advice to the PAPCHILD team at Tunis in its efforts to prepare analyses and programmatically useful reports on the basis of field surveys.

95. PAPCHILD commenced in January 1988. The Department of Technical Co-operation for Development and the United Nations Statistical Office had earlier actively participated with LAS in the preparation of the project document. The project is funded by AGFUND, UNFPA, UNICEF, LAS, WHO and the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development and guided in policy and related matters by the Higher Steering Committee. In addition, PAPCHILD has a Technical and Co-ordination Committee in which the Department participates regularly and in which it plays a vital role in the implementation of the project.

96. The objective of PAPCHILD is to provide reliable information for formulating, implementing, monitoring and evaluating maternal and child care, health and developmental policies and programmes in a cost-effective manner.

97. The project will also improve the information base for socio-economic planning in the region and will serve to upgrade present national capabilities to undertake future child health and development studies; and process, analyse and disseminate information on various aspects of maternal and child health in a timely fashion in response to government needs and priorities.

98. Furthermore, the project will promote a permanent national capability to plan, design and execute household surveys in the participating countries in conjunction with the National Household Survey Capability Programme.

99. The present project focuses on the implementation of the first phase of the Pan-Arab Maternal and Child Health Survey in the following countries: Democratic Yemen, Egypt, Mauritania, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen.

Progress to date

100. All the basic documents for the survey have been completed in close co-operation with the technical staff of the Statistical Office during the workshop held in New York and will be available in Arabic, English and French. Mauritania will be the first country to participate in PAPCHILD. Several missions have been carried out by the NHSCP staff to hold discussions with the government ministries and design the sample for field work. The main field work phase is expected to start in the first quarter of 1990.

101. In preparation for the field work and interrelated activities in this area, a workshop on PAPCHILD surveys was held at Tunis in October 1989. Participants from Democratic Yemen, 2/ Egypt, Jordan, Mauritania, Somalia, the Sudan and Tunisia attended this workshop. Technical advisers from the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development gave lectures during the workshop.

102. Egypt and Yemen also plan to carry out PAPCHILD. The project documents for the two countries have been finalized. PAPCHILD will be implemented in Egypt in 1990 by the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS).

103. The first phase of PAPCHILD will cover the five-year period from 1988 to 1992. The Department of Technical Co-operation for Development is committed to backstop the project. It will continue to participate regularly in the Technical

and Co-ordination Committee meetings and the NHSCP staff will extend support in co-operation with the LAS staff. Further, it will be prepared to extend its co-operation in other related areas of interest to LAS, including phase II of this project.

## V. FOLLOW-UP ACTION ON BILATERAL PROPOSALS

104. Most of the proposals adopted at the United Nations/LAS meetings at Tunis in 1983 and at Geneva in 1988 called for bilateral action between the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system and the LAS system. The progress achieved in their implementation up to 1989 was outlined in the 1988 report of the Secretary-General (A/43/509, sect. IV). The status of these bilateral proposals is summarized in this section. The information is based on replies received from the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system in response to paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 44/7.

### A. Political matters

#### 1. Security Council

105. The Security Council continued its co-operation with LAS by extending a number of invitations, under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure, to the Permanent Observer of LAS to the United Nations during the discussions in the Council on items concerning the situation in the occupied Arab territories.

#### 2. Outer Space Affairs

106. The Outer Space Affairs Division has co-operated with LAS, particularly in implementing the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE '82). This process was and is being accomplished through regional and international meetings, training courses and workshops organized under the auspices of the Space Applications Programme.

107. The fifth United Nations/FAO/WMO/European Space Agency Training Course on the Use of Remote Sensor Systems in Agrometeorological and Hydrological Applications, held in May/June 1989, was organized specifically to provide education and training to participants from developing countries in the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) region on the use of remote sensing data.

108. On an annual basis, long-range fellowships were offered by member States and international organizations within the framework of the Space Applications Programme. Furthermore, members of LAS have nominated candidates for participation in United Nations international training courses and meetings of experts. They also provided responses that were included in the updating of the second edition of the Directory on Education, Training, Research and Fellowships Opportunities in Space Science and Technology and its Applications.

109. The Outer Space Affairs Division, through its Space Applications Programme, is ready, at the request of LAS, to offer assistance on education and training, especially in the practical applications of space technology, and to continue the progress of co-operation between the Division and LAS.

### 3. Apartheid

110. The Special Committee against Apartheid continues to invite LAS to attend its meetings as an observer. The Centre provides printed materials on the issues of apartheid to the League.

## B. Disarmament matters

111. Consultations continued between the Department for Disarmament Affairs and LAS early in 1990, in implementation of paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 44/7, with a view to considering the possibility of holding a seminar on disarmament matters in the Arab region in 1990 or 1991.

112. As a result of the consultations, LAS proposed to hold the seminar at Doha. The seminar would last for three days and consist of about 22 participants. Possible timing of the seminar could be at the beginning of 1991. The Department is continuing its consultation with the League in regard to the exact dates and other details of the seminar.

## C. Economic matters

### 1. Department of International Economic and Social Affairs

113. In the context of its activities in the projections and perspective studies area, the Department has considerable expertise in the development, management, updating and revision of national econometric models, which can be utilized by member countries of LAS in analysing their economic outlook and evolution of economic policies. These capabilities can be further used to broaden the economic horizons of the research conducted by those countries, by giving more explicit treatment to specific socio-economic development issues. Linking various individual country planning models into a comprehensive framework for a regional model could provide an excellent basis for studying prospective trends and conditions in the region. The Department also provides information on world trade matrices, which now cover a 22-year period from 1965-1986 for four commodity groupings and comprise 80 countries/regions, including developed market countries/regions and Eastern European countries. In its analysis of global trade patterns, the Department treats eight member countries of the League individually and others as members of subregional groups. The Department also prepares comprehensive sets of internationally standardized data measuring economic activity and social conditions in most countries of the world. In the past, such data have been made available to the League and can continue to be made available in the future.

114. The Department continues its co-operation with LAS in the area of statistics. The Statistical Office, inter alia, has been providing substantive support in backstopping the Pan-Arab Project for Child Development. The Department is prepared to extend its co-operation in other related areas of interest to LAS.

## 2. United Nations Development Programme

### Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development

115. In 1987, with the participation of LAS, AFESD co-sponsored a regional workshop on human resources development (AB/87/028) on 28 and 29 November in Kuwait. UNDP inputs amounted to $US 68,453.

116. Project RAB/89/025 (formerly RAB/88/008), "Establishment of Regional Software Technology Centres (RSWTCs)", is a major UNDP project for which UNDP and AFESD are sharing the costs ($US 6 million) on an equal basis. The project's main objective is to improve regional co-operation in the field of informatics in order to facilitate the process of informatics growth and diversification of applications in the Arab region.

### Arab Monetary Fund

117. Under the umbrella regional project RAB/88/005, "Enhancement of the Private Sector", UNDP provided assistance to AMF for the organization of a seminar on the role of public and private sectors adjustment. The seminar was held at Abu Dhabi from 5 to 7 December 1988. UNDP inputs were $US 50,000.

118. Furthermore, AMF is the Government implementing agency for project RAB/88/018, "Establishment of Systems and Procedures for Financing Inter-Arab Trade", which is planned to be completed at the end of 1990. The UNDP contribution to this project is $US 101,000. The project's objective is to establish rules and procedures required for the implementation of the programme for financing inter-Arab trade.

### Inter-Arab Investment Guarantee Corporation

119. IAIGC has just completed the study on the performance of Arab investments in Arab countries under project RAB/87/012. The purpose of the study was to determine the factors affecting the success or failure of private Arab investment in seven Arab countries. Lessons drawn from this study could help to improve investment conditions in the Arab region at large and boost inter-Arab investment. UNDP allocated $US 127,000 and IAIGC inputs were $US 88,000.

## D. Development financing

### International Monetary Fund

120. The Fund continues to be actively involved with the formulation and implementation of economic and financial policies in States members of LAS. In 1989 there were 40 staff visits to hold periodic consultations and to discuss adjustment policies in support of financial assistance from the Fund. Technical and financial assistance to common members and other regional organizations, such as AMF and the GCC, continued to be high. As at 31 December 1989, there were six Fund financial arrangements in effect in member countries of LAS with a total agreed amount of SDR 777.94 million, and an undrawn balance of SDR 383.65 million. Fund technical assistance covered a broad range of activities, including the banking sector, financial sector reforms, budgetary policy and management, external sector, tax administration, public finance and statistics.

121. In order to strengthen the economic management capacity of member States, the Fund has been conducting regular training programmes in Arabic since 1985 under the auspices of the IMF Institute. On average, 60 officials per year from member countries of LAS have participated in training courses. The Fund is also collaborating with AMF to expand the latter's programmes aimed at training officials in economic policy formation and implementation. In addition, by actively participating in the meetings of regional organizations and affiliates such as the Islamic Development Bank, IMF has furthered co-operation among members of the League and with the Fund.

122. The Fund also carries out research on issues of interest to the members of LAS, in particular on the Islamic economic system, which has led to the publication of a study on Islamic banking. At present, a study is being prepared on fiscal policy under the Islamic system. Although LAS is not, strictly speaking, an institution of the type targeted by the technical assistance programme of the IMF Institute, the Institute's Admissions Committee has decided that, on an exceptional basis, candidates from such institutions as LAS may be accepted. To date, such exceptions have been made for four officials of the League.

123. The Fund sends regularly to several League-related entities located at Cairo, Geneva, Tunis and New York copies of some of its publications including the Annual report of the Executive Board, Direction of Trade Statistics (DOTS), International Financial Statistics (IFS) and its quarterly financial statements.

## E. Co-operation with the regional commissions

### Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

### Statistics

124. Co-operation continued in joint publication of the Unified Arab Statistical Abstract in May 1990, and in preparation for (a) the Expert Group Meeting, on the revision of the System of National Accounts (SNA), scheduled to be held at Tunis in

June 1990, and (b) the Second Arab Conference on National Accounts, planned to be held in Kuwait in October 1990.

125. ESCWA continued its participation in annual meetings of the Arab Standing Committee on Statistics and is a member of the Technical Advisory Committee of the PAPCHILD project (see paras. 91-103).

126. A compendium on social statistics of the Arab countries is planned to be published jointly with LAS and the Council of Arab Economic Unity, by the end of 1991.

Energy and natural resources

127. A memorandum of understanding was concluded between ESCWA and the Arab Atomic Energy Agency in May 1989. It covers exchange of information, documents and studies on the various peaceful uses of nuclear energy, exchange of expertise and co-operation in projects related to the establishment of a regional agro-industrial complex.

128. A preparatory committee consisting of ESCWA, the Regional Office of Science and Technology for the Arab States (ROSTAS), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) and the Arab Centre for the Study of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD) has been established to discuss areas of co-operation, particularly the preparation of a hydrological atlas for the Arab world. It held its first meeting in April 1990.

Environment

129. Efforts have been exerted to secure full co-operation and participation of the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for Environment (CAMRE) in the activities towards convening the regional conference on environment and development (first quarter of 1991).

## F. Human settlements

130. In order to strengthen further the co-operation between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and LAS, the First Co-ordination Meeting between the League of Arab States and UNCHS (Habitat) was held at Tunis in July 1989. Follow-up action on the recommendations of the meeting, which is being taken according to schedule, will produce more than five seminars on selected human settlement issues over a period of four years, fellowship/study tours, and dissemination of information.

131. The implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 was given a boost in the Arab States by the adoption of the Strategy by the Council of Arab Ministers for Housing and Reconstruction, at Tunis in September 1989. The guidelines for national action recommended in the Global Strategy have been applied by the Government of Jordan in the preparation and implementation of its National Housing Strategy.

132. Dissemination of information on human settlement issues is being undertaken by regular mailing of UNCHS (Habitat) publications on different aspects of human settlements to the General Secretariat of LAS from the UNCHS (Habitat) Regional Information Office at Amman. Newsletter features on States members of LAS were included in the April 1989 issue of Habitat News.

## G. Environment

133. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), through its Regional Office for West Asia, assisted the Technical Secretariat of CAMRE in convening the meetings of the three principal steering committees on the major programmes adopted by CAMRE at its second session, namely: (a) combating desertification and extending the green area in the Arab world; (b) control of industrial pollution in the Arab world; and (c) promotion of environmental education and public awareness.

134. The Regional Director of UNEP for West Asia represented the Executive Director at the third session of CAMRE, held at Cairo in October 1989. This session of CAMRE was characterized by effective participation of regional and national Arab financing institutions, including the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD), based in Kuwait, and the Islamic Development Fund. The role of UNEP in assisting the work of CAMRE was recognized and appreciated by the Council in its resolution on co-operation with international organizations and UNEP was particularly called upon to assist in the implementation of the priority activities. UNEP was also called upon to assist the Executive Bureau of CAMRE in establishing a network of regional and national financial institutions in the Arab world following the model of the Committee of International Development Institutions on Environment (CIDIE). The Council also put special emphasis on the need of Arab States to ensure the co-ordination and harmonization of their stand in relation to transboundary movements of hazardous waste so as to safeguard against any dangers that might ensue from the passage of such waste in the Arab region. In this connection, UNEP made available to CAMRE the text of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal.

135. CAMRE also stressed the role of LAS and specialized organizations concerned in collaboration with UNEP and other relevant organizations in the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992.

136. UNEP continued in 1989 its collaboration with ALECSO, and the Seminar on Environmental Education and Training at Tertiary Level was held in September 1989. A number of recommendations were adopted regarding the introduction of environmental education in the universities of the Arab world and UNEP will assist ALECSO in the follow-up of these recommendations.

137. UNEP, through its Liaison Office with LAS and ALECSO at Tunis, is working out a programme of publications with ALECSO whereby UNEP publications of special interest to the Arab world will be translated into Arabic by UNEP and printed by ACSAD. Already a number of UNEP publications have been selected for this joint effort.

138. The Round-table Meeting on the Role of Women in the Protection of Environment was held at Tunis from 6 to 10 February 1990, with the participation of women from five Arab countries. The meeting, which was sponsored by UNEP and LAS in collaboration with the Tunisian Ministry of Social Affairs, adopted a number of recommendations regarding the main three themes of the meeting, namely:

(a) The role of Arab women in environmental education and information;

(b) The role of Arab women in the protection of the environment through government organizations and non-governmental organizations;

(c) The conservation of resources, food security and self-sufficiency.

139. Here again, LAS will follow up implementation of the meeting's recommendations and UNEP will assist in this respect.

140. Following the recommendations of the Governing Council of UNEP and CAMRE for incorporation of environmental considerations in development planning, UNEP, in collaboration with the Arab Planning Institute (API) in Kuwait and the Arabian Gulf University (AGU) in Bahrain, convened an Expert Group Meeting in October 1989 to develop a curriculum for the subject. The meeting developed a curriculum that API will introduce as part of its training programme with effect from the academic year 1990.

141. UNEP and ACSAD continued their joint training programme and in October 1989 a training course on assessment, mapping and monitoring of desertification was held in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics for 20 specialists from the Arab region. Also in 1989, agreement was reached between UNEP and ACSAD to conduct training courses in 1990, one on diagnostic reclamation and conservation of gypsiferous soils and another expert meeting on assessment, mapping and monitoring desertification. It is envisaged that by the end of 1992, there will be over 80 trainees in this UNEP/ACSAD programme, which started in 1987. It is worth noting also that co-operation between UNEP and ACSAD is expanding in scope and plans are already under way for a training course entitled "Artificial Ground-water Recharge in Arid Zones as a Method of Desertification Control" in 1991.

## H. Labour

### Role of the International Labour Organisation in population activities

142. A project was proposed for ILO execution to set up a population and human resources development centre in an effort to assist countries of the Gulf region to tackle the human resources issues, within the University of Kuwait, to provide countries of the Gulf region in general and the State of Kuwait in particular with research, training and support services, which would allow the assessment of human resources on a continuous basis with corresponding manpower requirements. Accordingly, the centre could also devise technical and vocational training plans and assist in the formulation of comprehensive human resources policies.

Vocational training activities in the member countries of the League of Arab States

143. An important subregional training project entitled "Skills Development Programme for Arab Countries (SDEPAC)" was approved in October 1989. It was designed to enhance the capability of the national vocational training systems to respond to changing manpower needs of the public, private, urban, rural and informal sectors of the participating countries. The project will establish a regional mechanism of human resources development; develop standardized training material and employment modular training programmes in high priority occupations; and provide regional training programmes for officials of national training institutions. Project activities will initially and on a pilot basis cover Egypt, Iraq, Kuwait, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen and are expected to expand eventually to all Arab countries. The project office will be established in one of the eight participating countries and will be headed by the ILO Regional Project Co-ordinator. A Project Management/Steering Committee, comprising all National Project Co-ordinators, will meet periodically in order to ensure that the project is being implemented effectively in accordance with the agreed plan of work. The project is funded by UNDP (50 per cent: $US 848,000). It is worth mentioning that another five country projects were implemented ir 1989 in the field of vocational training: Bahrain, Democratic Yemen, 2/ Iraq, Jordan and Yemen.

Employment promotion and manpower planning

144. Technical co-operation projects and related activities are currently being executed in the following States members of LAS.

Jordan

145. The project entitled "Employment promotion and manpower policy" was financed by UNDP. Within the framework of this project, technical advice and assistance have been provided towards the establishment of a Department of Employment and Human Resource Planning in the Ministry of Planning.

146. A high-level ILO mission on employment and training visited Jordan in September 1989 to assess prospects for intensifying ILO technical assistance to the Government in relation to current employment and development prospects.

Iraq

147. An ILO mission concerning issues of employment/manpower planning and human resources development was expected to visit Iraq during the first half of 1990 to review and advise the authorities on employment prospects.

Morocco

148. A national symposium on employment, financed by UNDP, was organized in October 1989 in collaboration with the Ministry of Employment and with the Federation of Employers and Trade Unions. The symposium examined the current employment problem in Morocco on the basis of 18 technical papers prepared by national and international experts, and it recommended possible solutions and ways of improving labour market monitoring.

Other activities

149. In the field of co-operatives, two UNDP/ILO projects, one in Iraq and the other in Yemen, became operational. The project in Iraq assisted in establishing the co-operatives' training centre and conducting its training programmes, while the project in Yemen focused on strengthening co-operatives in rural areas. An interregional seminar on co-operatives development was organized at Baghdad jointly with the Arab Co-operative Federation and the General Union of Co-operatives in Iraq to exchange experiences on ways and means for the development of co-operatives. Preparatory work started on organizing a regional workshop in 1990 to discuss the organization and promotion of co-operatives of disabled persons.

150. Activities related to social security included a UNDP/ILO project in Yemen, which was designed to strengthen the social security corporations. An ad hoc consultancy mission was undertaken to Democratic Yemen 2/ for assessment of the technical assistance needs in this field.

151. As regards vocational rehabilitation, seven technical co-operation projects were executed in Democratic Yemen, Iraq, Jordan, Oman, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen. A regional workshop for "orientation and programme formulation on drug rehabilitation" was organized with financial assistance from the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC). Also, an ILO/UNDP/AGFUND regional programme entitled "Development of Rehabilitation Staff Training Capacities in Arab Countries" was approved.

152. In 1989, ILO also collaborated with: (a) the Arab Labour Organization (ALO) and the International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions (ICATU) in the implementation of multi-country projects on population and family welfare education; and (b) the Arab Planning Institute in organizing joint regional training activities in population, human resources and development planning.

Co-operation between the Labour Information and Statistics Department and LAS

153. The ILO Library continued to send subsets of its LABORDOC data base to the Arab League Documentation Centre at six-monthly intervals.

154. The Arab Employment Institute prepared an Arabic version of the ILO Thesaurus on which the ILO Library provided some comments. Closer collaboration in this area would be useful.

155. During the preparation of the Arab Standard Classification of Occupations and the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO-88) there was fruitful co-operation between the Bureau of Statistics of ILO and the Arab Employment Institute. These activities are directly financed by the regular resources of the Labour Information and Statistics Department.

Technical advisory services

156. More than 20 missions were undertaken by regional advisers in the fields of co-operatives development, labour administration and legislation, employment and manpower planning, workers' activities, vocational training, employers' activities and vocational rehabilitation. Through these missions, the regional advisers provided technical advisory services, and backstopping to ongoing projects, as well as other activities such as promotion of international labour standards, organization of seminars and workshops, identification of needs for technical assistance and formulation of proposals for technical co-operation in Arab States members of the League and ILO. Other consultancy missions were fielded in the sectors of handicrafts, occupational safety and health, and hotel and tourism. These missions were funded by the ILO regular budget.

157. Co-operation with the funding institutions in the region, particularly AGFUND and AFESD, gained momentum through cost-sharing inputs at the national and regional levels. AGFUND approved the co-financing, with UNDP, of a regional programme entitled "Development of Rehabilitation Staff Training". AFESD indicated its interest in co-financing the regional project on "Skill Development Programme for Arab Countries", which was later approved by UNDP. It is worth noting that the regional project on rehabilitation was formulated at the request of ALECSO.

158. Other regional and subregional institutions, with which the Office continued close co-operation and collaboration, included the Follow-up Bureau of the Council of Ministers of Labour and Social Affairs in the Gulf Countries, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), ICATU and the General Union of the Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture of the Arab Countries.

159. Close contacts were maintained with the regional and subregional organizations with the objective of consolidating and expanding existing co-operation. The Office was represented at all sessions of the Governing Body of ALO and at the Arab Labour Conference. The fourth annual meeting on ILO/ALO co-operation took place at ILO headquarters. The meeting provided both organizations with the opportunity to review the joint activities carried out during the interim period and to identify areas and activities of future action.

160. Activities in the Regional Arab Centre for Labour Administration (RACLA) were extended until June 1990 to enable an evaluation of the project to be conducted with a view to having a second phase approved.

161. In 1989, more than 40 officials from the labour ministries in the Arab countries as well as the workers' and employers' representatives participated in these activities. RACLA also provided technical advisory services and fellowship programmes in areas such as labour standards, occupational safety and health, labour administration and employment services. The regional adviser on labour administration and legislation assisted RACLA in undertaking the aforementioned activities.

162. Co-operation between ALO and UNDP is illustrated in the ILO-executed project RAB/83/002, "Regional Arab Centre for Labour Administration". The purpose of the project is mainly to enable the labour administrations in the Arab countries to participate in the elaboration and implementation of the economic and social development plans, in the improvement of working conditions and environment, in the full utilization of human resources and in the proper application of labour laws and regulations. UNDP allocation to the project is $US 985,635 and ALO cost sharing amounts to $US 307,018.

## I. Education, science and culture

### United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

163. The areas in which UNESCO and LAS have continued their co-operation during the biennium 1988-1989 are as follows.

#### Education

164. UNESCO and the International Network for Information in Science and Technology Education (INISTE) organized in 1988-1989 two activities: one at Amman in February 1989 on quality of life and science education, and the other at Hammamet, Tunisia, in February 1990 on low-cost equipment for science education in primary and secondary schools. UNESCO translated into Arabic the two volumes of the document entitled "Low-cost Equipment for Science and Technology Education" and is planning to follow up the recommendations of the last meeting concerning the development of low-cost teaching materials at school level, teacher training, exchange of materials among countries of the region, curricula and books.

#### Science

165. As regards co-operation between the UNESCO Regional Office of Science and Technology for the Arab States (ROSTAS) and the various organizations of LAS, a number of joint activities have been executed with two of its specialized organizations in particular: ACSAD and ALECSO.

166. Among the activities recently performed with ACSAD was the "Regional project on rational utilization of water resources in the rural areas of the Arab States with emphasis on the traditional water system". The hydrogeological map of the Arab region was the result of co-operation between ROSTAS, ALECSO and UNESCO. A present follow-up to that project is the Atlas of Water Resources in the Arab Region. Furthermore, ROSTAS has participated with ACSAD in a number of training courses, conferences and meetings and in the publication of a number of technical documents.

167. At present, co-operation with ALECSO is being re-initiated and there are plans on both sides to increase the joint activities.

Information programmes and services

168. Since 1979, UNESCO has been co-operating closely in the field of information with LAS.

169. After the execution of project RAB/79/030 (Creation of the Arab League Documentation Centre in Tunis), project RAB/86/010 (Arab Regional Information System Network (ARIS-NET); Introductory Activities) was launched in 1989 in order to prepare an Arab Regional Information System Network, whose activities are expected to start in January 1991 at the latest.

170. The General Co-ordination Unit of this network will be the Arab League Documentation Centre (ALDOC), now located at Tunis.

171. ARIS-NET was conceived as an integrated, co-operative and decentralized information network for the Arab region and will be based on existing information resources, data bases, facilities and services. The main objectives of this project, for which a continuing financial contribution is expected from UNDP and from the participating countries, are the following:

(a) To support the creation and consolidation of socio-economic development information and data pertaining to the Arab region, based on regional development priority and common areas of interest to the region;

(b) To disseminate to the Arab countries in particular, and to other countries in general, socio-economic development information and data pertaining to the Arab region, based on the frequently updated data bases of ALDOC and the participating centres.

172. The successful realization of the project will be an important contribution to co-operation between UNESCO and LAS.

Culture

Cultural heritage

173. UNESCO continues to co-operate with ALECSO in the implementation of activities related to the preservation of cultural heritage and the follow-up of international campaigns on the safeguarding of cultural heritage; for example, those at Sana'a and Shibam (Yemen).

Cultural policies and studies

174. In the context of the implementation of the "Arabia" Plan, co-operation between UNESCO and ALECSO could find new areas of collaboration. Therefore, within the framework of the World Decade for Cultural Development, studies will be undertaken in the Arab region, in co-operation with ALECSO, UNDP, the Islamic Bank and AFESD, in drawing up a methodology for taking into account "culture" as an important dimension in development projects.

175. The project concerning the creation of an Arab academy of sciences should also offer a new field of co-operation between UNESCO and ALECSO.

## J. Health

### World Health Organization

176. A milestone in relations with LAS was the signing of the document for the multi-agency Pan-Arab Project for Child Development. The WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean is closely involved in the technical preparation and implementation of this project, which, in its first phase - PAPCHILD, would cover six countries. Agreements for implementation and letters of understanding have now been signed with the respective Governments. The Regional Office participated actively in all technical meetings in this respect, contributed to enriching and improving the basic framework of the project, and also contributed to organizing the implementation in the field. As an input to the countries, the Regional Office agreed to support and perform the translation from Arabic into English of six basic technical documents of PAPCHILD surveys. Translation into English of the project's report is also under way in the Regional Office.

177. In the field of medical education, the Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean is particularly interested in the process of arabization of medical education. Activities in this area are planned in co-ordination with the Executive Office of the Council of Arab Ministers of Health. A regional conference on the subject, with the full participation of LAS, was planned to be held at Cairo in June 1990. The conference was to debate issues related to the subject and it was hoped would adopt resolutions to initiate active steps in the arabization process.

178. In September 1989, the Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean prepared a report on the "Health situation in the Arab world" at the request of the Chairman of the Executive Board of the Council of Arab Ministers of Health.

179. The Centre for Environmental Health Activities (CEHA) at Amman has, in collaboration with the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) in Canada, established a water, sanitation and environmental health information network called CEHANET. CEHANET has made contacts with the Arab League Documentation Centre, especially for arabized information tools. CEHANET has developed an Arabic Thesaurus in Water Supply and Sanitation.

## K. Refugees

### United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

180. Co-operation with LAS continued through periodic contacts and exchange of information. UNHCR also continued to follow the activities of the specialized organizations of the League. In October 1989 the office participated in the Conference on Arab Non-Governmental Organizations and Development, which took place at Cairo under the joint sponsorship of LAS, UNDP and AFESD. The Conference

underlined the increasingly important role of non-governmental organizations in humanitarian and other activities in the Arab world. In another area, contacts took place with the Arab Council for Childhood Development concerning co-operation with UNHCR to assist Arab refugee children.

United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

181. UNRWA regards its relationship with LAS as highly important. Accordingly, consultations and contacts have continued at all levels between UNRWA and the secretariat of the League. The Commissioner-General visited the League secretariat at Tunis on 3 April 1990 and regular contacts were maintained with the Permanent Observers of the League of Arab States at the United Nations in Vienna and New York.

182. The League of Arab States has continued to urge its member States to give financial support to UNRWA, and Arab States have made generous contributions, especially to the Agency's special programmes in the occupied territory of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Following a decision of LAS in support of UNRWA taken on 3 March 1990, a League delegation will visit Arab capitals to try to encourage Arab States to increase further their contributions to the Agency.

183. UNRWA maintains close contact with the States members of LAS, especially with the Arab host Governments of Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon an the Syrian Arab Republic. These Governments are also members of UNRWA's Advisory Commission.

## L. Natural disasters

Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator

184. A seminar on disaster and prevention and preparedness in the Arab countries is scheduled to be held at Tunis from 8 to 10 October 1990. It is being organized jointly by UNDRO and the Arab Interior Ministers' Council (AIMC) with the participation of representatives of Arab Governments, LAS and its specialized organizations, as well as the United Nations programmes and agencies concerned. The long-term objective of the seminar is to improve knowledge on the techniques for reducing disaster losses by proper pre-disaster management, while the immediate objective of the seminar is to brief participants from Arab countries on various technical and administrative aspects of disaster preparedness and prevention.

185. UNDRO was involved in relief or disaster preparedness activities implemented in or with the participation of the following States members of LAS: Algeria, Democratic Yemen, 2/ Djibouti, Egypt, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic and Tunisia.

## M. Civil aviation

### International Civil Aviation Organization

186. LAS is invited to relevant ICAO meetings, including sessions of the Assembly of ICAO, and to air transport workshops and other meetings arranged for States of the region. For example, the League has been invited to a workshop on civil aviation statistics, scheduled to be held at Cairo in June 1990.

187. Within its Technical Assistance Programme, ICAO is executing technical assistance projects in a number of States members of the League. In particular, the regional project for the provision of fellowships for Arab least developed countries for training at the Gulf Civil Aviation College progressed smoothly, 44 such fellowships having been awarded in 1989.

188. The Arab Civil Aviation Council (ACAC) was co-operating in the implementation of UNDP assistance to the Civil Aviation College at Doha under project RAB/84/001 and now under project RAB/86/056, "Civil Aviation College", which aims at meeting the needs of participating Governments and civil aviation operators of the States for technical personnel in the field of civil aviation, and at ensuring the full manning of the essential services by locally trained nationals and thus establishing self-reliance in the provision of civil aviation technical srevices. The UNDP input to the project is $US 1,318,796 with Governments' cost sharing of $US 439,372.

## N. Postal services

### Universal Postal Union

#### Framework for the development of co-operation: contacts and exchange of information

189. There is a continuing exchange of information and contacts between UPU and the Arab Postal Union (APU), for example, at meetings of their respective organs (the executive councils of UPU and APU and the UPU Consultative Council for Postal Studies).

190. Under the agreement on co-operation concluded between UPU and APU in January 1987, a seminar for chairmen and directors-general of posts was held at Dubai in December 1987, which made recommendations for the modernization of postal services (see A/44/478, para. 185).

#### UPU technical assistance activities for the Arab countries

191. UPU and APU have agreed to conduct annual postal staff training activities and to grant fellowships to those attending the various courses and programmes of study.

Activities under the regional project for postal development and training specialists

192. On the basis of the objectives of a project funded jointly by UNDP, UPU and APU, activities are being carried out in close co-operation between these organizations.

193. Under this project, the Arab Higher Postal Institute at Damascus has been provided with teaching equipment.

194. APU was the intergovernmental co-operating agency in the implementation of project RAB/83/010, "Postal Development and Training of Specialists". The project's main objective was the improvement and expansion of the modes of transport and communications in the region as one of the important means of enhancing economic and social integration and co-operation. The project was operationally completed in 1989. UNDP inputs amounted to $US 326,473.

## O. Telecommunication service

United Nations Development Programme

195. The Arab Fund expressed interest in providing cost sharing during the implementation of the full-scale project RAB/89/001, "Modern Arab Telecommunication Development (MODARABTEL)", and is at present contributing to the cost sharing of project RAB/87/013, "Engineering Infrastructure".

196. Project RAB/89001, which has just been approved by the UNDP Action Committee as a full-scale project for UNDP inputs of $US 1.4 million, has as its main objective the assistance of the Arab Telecommunication Administration in establishing an Arab Regional Data Communication Network, as well as the creation of a mechanism of collaboration and the promotion of self-reliance in telecommunication training activities through networking arrangements. The preparatory assistance stage of the said project has been completed and launching of the new project was expected to take place the end of May 1990. The project is executed by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the Arab Telecommunication Union (ATU) is a member of the Steering Committee of the project.

## P. Meteorological service

World Meteorological Organization

197. Within the Technical Co-operation Programme, WMO is executing technical assistance projects in the fields of meteorology and operational hydrology financed by UNDP or under trust fund arrangements in the following countries that are members of LAS: Algeria, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Yemen. The purpose of these projects is to develop and strengthen the National Meteorological Services in these countries in order to provide precise meteorological information to the socio-economic development projects and to participate actively in the

monitoring of climatic changes. This is being achieved through transfer of new technology and know-how, and training of nationals at different levels in both meteorology and operational hydrology. In Tunisia and Iraq new projects for flood forecasting warning and improvement of training facilities at the WMO Regional Meteorological Training Centre at Baghdad are under consideration.

198. The regional project for the enhancement of the capability of national and regional institutions in charge of water resources management in Arab States is almost completed. This project was implemented by WMO with the co-operation of ACSAD. A new project, "Development of Drought Monitoring System and Strategies for Drought Response Plans in Arab States", is under consideration by UNDP.

199. Technical assistance was also provided by WMO under its voluntary co-operation programme and its regular budget in the form of short-term expert services, provision of spare parts and short-term/long-term fellowships to Algeria, Democratic Yemen, 2/ Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Morocco, Somalia, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Tunisia.

200. The African Centre for Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD) which is now under implementation will contribute to the socio-economic development of the African countries, including the Arab States in Africa, through the use of meteorological products and creation of a new meteorological assistance system in Africa. This is a potential area of co-operation between LAS and WMO.

Notes

1/ AIDMO is comprised of the former Arab Industrial Development Organization (AIDO), the Arab Organization for Standardization and Meteorology (ASMO) and the Arab Organization for Mineral Resources (OARM).

2/ On 22 May 1990 Democratic Yemen and Yemen merged to form a single State. Since that date they have been represented as one Member with the name "Yemen".

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# CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

## I. INTRODUCTION

1. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 44/7 of 17 October 1989, a joint meeting between representatives of the United Nations system and the League of Arab States (LAS) and its specialized organizations was held at Geneva from 18 to 20 July 1990.

2. The objective of the meeting was to undertake a critical review of the progress achieved in the implementation of the multilateral proposals for co-operation between organizations of the United Nations system and LAS and its specialized organizations, especially those proposals adopted at the 1988 Geneva meeting.

## II. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

3. The joint meeting was held at the Palais des Nations at Geneva from 18 to 20 July 1990. The main items on the agenda were: (a) the review of co-operation and appraisal of progress, with particular reference to the recommendations of the 1988 Geneva meeting; and (b) consideration of proposals for a two-year programme of co-operation.

4. The meeting had before it conference room papers containing a summary of information and proposals forwarded by the General Secretariat of LAS and its specialized organizations. Other papers and studies were also distributed by agencies and organizations of the United Nations system (see annex I).

5. Representatives of the United Nations system and of LAS and its specialized organizations participated in the meeting (see annex II).

## III. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING

6. The meeting took note with satisfaction of the progress achieved on co-operation between the United Nations system and LAS and its specialized organizations. After careful consideration of the proposals put forward by the representatives of both systems to strengthen co-operation, the meeting decided to establish six sectoral areas for co-operation and agreed upon the following conclusions and recommendations.

### A. International peace and security

7. The representatives of the United Nations system and LAS reiterated the view expressed at the 1983 Tunis meeting, and at the 1988 Geneva meeting between representatives of the United Nations system and LAS and its specialized organizations, that the following action would contribute to the strengthening of co-operation in the field of international peace and security:

(a) The achievement of a comprehensive, just and lasting peaceful settlement of the Palestinian problem and the Middle East conflict, in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the provisions of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

(b) Promoting greater international awareness of the dangers that might result from the disregard of the principles of the Charter and of United Nations resolutions and decisions concerning the maintenance of international peace and security;

(c) Strengthening co-operation between the two systems for the purpose of bringing peace in Lebanon and helping that country in its reconstruction.

### B. Food and agriculture

8. The meeting identified the following areas of mutual interest for co-operation between LAS and the United Nations system for implementation during 1991 and 1992:

| Title of activity | Organizations involved: United Nations and specialized agencies | Organizations involved: LAS and its specialized organizations |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Land and water development | | |
| A. Survey of water resources and monitoring hydrological networks in the Arab region | UNESCO, UNDP, WMO,* IDB | ACSAD,* AFSED |
| B. Land reclamation and water management | FAO,* DTCD, UNDP | ACSAD,* AOAD |
| C. Support for Arab water security | FAO,* DTCD, UNESCO, WMO, UNDP, ESCWA | ACSAD,* AOAD, ALECSO, AFSED |
| 2. Environment | | |
| A. Co-operation in the monitoring and control of desertification in the Arab countries | FAO,* UNEP, UNDP | ACSAD,* ALECSO, AOAD |
| B. Monitoring of drought in the Arab countries | WMO,* UNDP | ACSAD |
| C. Co-operation in preparing for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to be held in Brazil in 1992 | UNEP,* ESCWA, FAO, UNDP | AOAD, ACSAD,* CAME** |
| D. Preparatory Regional Conference on Environment and Development in the Arab World, to be held in February 1991*** | ESCWA,* UNEP, UNDP | AOAD,* ACSAD, CAME,** |
| 3. Regional studies | | |
| It was agreed that a series of regional studies should be undertaken related to the needs of Arab countries. Special subjects of interest would be as follows: | | |
| A. Support and follow-up implementation of the camel research | IFAD,* UNDP, IDB | ACSAD,* AFSED |
| B. Research programme on palm date improvement | IFAD,* UNDP | ACSAD* |

| Title of activity | Organizations involved: United Nations and specialized agencies | Organizations involved: LAS and its specialized organizations |
|---|---|---|
| C. Co-operation in the field of small ruminants | FAO,* UNDP | ACSAD* |
| D. Co-operation in the promotion of feasibility studies in agricultural investment projects | FAO* | AOAD* |
| E. Agricultural market information services for the Arab countries | GATT* | AOAD* |
| F. Development and co-ordination of agricultural planning systems among nations of the Arab Co-operation Council | ESCWA* | AOAD* |
| 4. Training/symposia/seminar/workshops | | |
| A. Organization and holding of symposia and workshops in areas of interest and holding training courses for persons working in the agricultural sector | FAO,* WMO, UNDP, UNESCO | AOAD, ACSAD* |
| B. Holding a symposium for directors of Arab Agricultural Documentation and Information Centres, to be held at Khartoum from 11 to 17 October 1990 | FAO,* UNDP | AOAD* |

* Indicates lead agency.

** Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for Environment.

*** FAO, jointly with the Government of the Netherlands, will hold an International Conference on Agriculture and Environment at Amsterdam in April 1991, where a regional document on sustainable agricultural development in the Near East will be presented.

C. Labour, trade, industry and environment

Department of International Economic and Social Affairs

9. It was noted that the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs would co-operate in the exchange of visits with the Statistical Department of the General Secretariat of LAS with a view to learning about each other's programmes and ascertaining the possibility of co-ordinating them during the stages of implementation. In the broad area of economic and social activities, the Department would also explore possibilities for close co-operation in economic modelling, especially in the context of Project LINK, as well as in the exchange of information and data for the monitoring and analysis of economic and social trends.

United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations

10. The Centre will provide the General Secretariat of LAS with studies, research papers and periodicals issued by it, and will invite LAS to its training sessions and study courses.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and International Trade Centre

11. Co-operation will be further strengthened between UNCTAD and the Economic Department of LAS and the Arab Organization for Industrial Development and Mining regarding the completion of the inter-sectoral study on prospects for economic and social development of the occupied Palestinian territory, with special reference to areas of specialization of the latter. Following the completion of the inter-sectoral project at the end of 1991, both UNCTAD and LAS and its specialized organizations will co-ordinate their follow-up action in operational activities in various economic and social fields that will emerge within the framework of a programme of action for the international community to assist the Palestinian people in their efforts towards economic and social development in the 1990s.

12. Co-operation between UNCTAD and LAS will also be strengthened with regard to exchange of statistics, reports and other material of relevance to the social and economic conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied territory.

13. UNCTAD and GATT will co-operate with LAS in the utilization of training sessions organized by ITC.

14. LAS will be invited to participate in training sessions organized under the auspices of GATT and UNCTAD on procedures for multilateral negotiations among developing countries, the conduct of market studies and other techniques relating to studies on supply and demand.

15. ITC will co-operate with LAS: (a) in developing a central unit on trade information and in the holding of joint regional study courses with ITC and UNCTAD concerning the generalized system of preferences; and (b) in organizing training sessions in co-operation with UNCTAD in the use of computers in the field of trade negotiations, tariffs and negotiable goods, and the preparation of lists of exports.

16. UNCTAD/GATT/ITC will provide the General Secretariat of LAS with studies and reports concerning international and regional economic co-operation and the state of, and changes in, the world economy.

Economic Commission for Africa

17. ECA agreed to continue co-operation with the General Secretariat of LAS in the field specified in the agreement concluded between them.

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

18. It was proposed that ESCWA should co-operate with LAS: (a) in the joint implementation of all projects relating to transport strategy in Arab countries and the Transport and Communications Decade; (b) in the issuance of the Unified Arab Statistical Abstract; (c) in the issuance of a unified bulletin on social statistics; (d) on a programme of field visits to obtain the latest data available in Arab States; (e) in exchanging statistical information and data; (f) in the preparation of programmes and studies; and (g) in the preparatory work for the Regional Conference on Environment and Development in the Arab World, to be held in February 1991.

19. The Arab Labour Organization (ALO) and ESCWA will continue co-operation in the following fields: migration; employment and manpower planning; statistical data base; development of social statistics; technical promotion of administrative units concerned with manpower in Arab countries; vocational training; documentation; and environment.

United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

20. The meeting recommended that UNCHS (Habitat) should co-operate with LAS: (a) in convening a regional conference of Arab States to study the nature of the exchange of information and experience with regard to national shelter strategies and to monitor the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000; (b) in seminars organized by the Council of Arab Ministers of Housing; (c) in developing questionnaires to obtain information and statistics relating to development of the housing sector in Arab States; and (d) in utilizing training programmes and sessions organized by the Centre. It was further recommended that the two sides should exchange publications and periodicals issued by them and, whenever possible, that the Centre should translate its documents and publications into Arabic.

International Labour Organisation

21. The following were identified as priority areas for co-operation between ILO and ALO:

(a) Exchange of information and training materials, especially in the Arabic language, and increasing and expanding the publication of documents of seminars in the Arabic language;

(b) Co-ordination in the execution of joint projects in the following fields:

(i) Promotion of employment;

(ii) International migration;

(iii) Training and vocational rehabilitation;

(iv) Health and vocational safety;

(c) Follow-up of subjects related to employment and creation of new work opportunities in the Arab region and study of the usefulness of the International Employment Programme.

22. With respect to technical co-operation for the Arabs in the occupied territories, ALO would like ILO to undertake a technical assistance programme for the people as defined by the Director-General in his report to the Seventy-seventh International Labour Conference in 1990 and in particular the following: vocational training; trade-union training; and rehabilitation of handicapped persons. ALO would also like ILO to participate actively in the efforts to elaborate programmes in favour of the Palestinian people of the occupied territories.

World Bank and International Monetary Fund

23. The World Bank and IMF will co-operate with LAS: (a) in the utilization of training sessions organized by IMF and the Bank; and (b) in providing the General Secretariat of LAS with studies, research papers, periodicals and regular bulletins dealing with international economic problems and the state of the world economy.

International Maritime Organization

24. IMO will co-operate with LAS: (a) in the revitalization of activities under the co-operation agreement concluded between them in 1984; (b) in implementing certain projects relating to transport in Arab countries approved by the Arab Ministers of Transport; and (c) in the utilization of IMO expertise in the field of transport and the development of marine-navigation and communications technology, and security and safety equipment.

United Nations Industrial Development Organization

25. The Industrial Development Board of UNIDO has decided (decision IDS6/Dec/2) to co-operate with LAS in the following priority areas: agro-industries and agro-based industries; development of human resources; development of technological functions and capacities; industrial rehabilitation; engineering consulting and industrial information; building materials and tools industry; and metallurgical and petrochemical industries. The implementation of the programmes will be discussed bilaterally with the relevant body and/or department of the LAS organization.

26. The special programme will be financed initially through the redeployment of resources within the regular budget and be supported by the Industrial Development Fund (IDF), trust funds and other sources of funds.

## D. Social affairs

27. The meeting noted that the Department of Social Affairs of LAS hoped that it could develop co-operation with the United Nations system in the following areas: (a) preparation of a framework for the planning, follow-up and development of co-operation, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 39/9 of 8 November 1984; (b) preparation of a feasibility study on the establishment of an Arab centre for social studies and training, in accordance with the resolution adopted at the joint sectoral meeting on social development, held at Amman in 1985; (c) implementation of measures to set up a regional social development training programme for the benefit of Arab States; (d) the convening by the General Secretariat of LAS and its specialized organizations, together with the United Nations and its related agencies, of two seminars on social development entitled "Social work productivity programmes in the Arab world" and "Methods of assessing social projects"; (e) improvement of technical capacities with respect to basic requirements for the development of rural areas of the Arab world, and investigation of the extent to which a specific project in that connection might be developed through co-operation; (f) establishment of special departments to assist the Palestinian people, to monitor the situation of the Palestinian people and to work towards the adoption of accelerated programmes to improve their condition in the occupied territories; (g) preparation of reports on the activities and programmes of the special departments in the Arab region on a periodic and regular basis, in accordance with their respective fields of specialization; and (h) taking steps to confirm the necessary agreements and memoranda of understanding, to formalize their relationship and assure regular consultations, contacts and meetings.

### Health development

28. The meeting invited the Executive Bureau of the Council of Arab Health Ministers and the Eastern Mediterranean Regional Bureau of the World Health Organization (WHO) to co-ordinate and unite their efforts to implement health programmes serving the Arab region and to emphasize the need to establish an overall framework for co-operation between the two sides in the form of a memorandum of understanding and co-operation. Such a memorandum would include health programmes, plans for their execution and joint funding for their implementation, particularly in the following fields:

(a) Arab medicaments: by supporting steps to establish an Arab strategy for the pharmaceutical industry and development of aspects of Arab medicaments such as manufacturing, marketing, monitoring, quality control, importation and so on, with a view to achieving self-sufficiency in medicines for the Arab world;

(b) Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS): by uniting the efforts of the Council of Arab Health Ministers and WHO to combat the disease, with support from WHO in the form of health education programmes to prevent AIDS in the Arab region;

(c) Development of blood transfusion services: by complementing the efforts of the Council of Arab Health Ministers to set up a network of information on the situation of blood transfusion services in the Arab world, together with co-operation between the two sides in support of the Arab world's blood-derivative industry;

(d) Arabization of medical and health training: the two sides endorsed steps taken by them to promote the arabization of medical and health training in the Arab world, and affirmed the need to support the Arab Centre for Health Documents and Periodicals and the Arab Council for Medical Specializations of the Council of Arab Health Ministers, in order to enable both bodies to perform their role in this strategic sphere;

(e) The meeting invited WHO to carry out surveys evaluating the health situation in the Arab world and to co-ordinate with the Executive Bureau of the Council of Arab Health Ministers in the preparation of health development plans, and to include the training of health personnel, in conformity with the objective of Health for All by the Year 2000.

29. WHO, in co-operation with LAS, is to ensure, as a fundamental human right, that the Palestinian people enjoy the best possible standard of health, as well as to improve the health condition of Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories, and to provide health protection to those people. It will also:

(a) Step up its efforts to implement the special technical assistance programme for improvement of the health conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories and endeavour to secure the necessary funds for that programme;

(b) Support and develop the organizational health unit for the Palestinian people that was established at WHO headquarters and draw up a comprehensive health plan for the Palestinian people in co-operation with Palestine;

(c) Take the steps and initiatives required to implement resolutions of WHO concerning the health conditions of the Arab population of the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine.

Population

30. The meeting took note that the Population Research and Studies Unit had been conducting a number of research activities, convening intellectual encounters on population issues and establishing a modern population data base in accordance with international standards. This activity is governed by an agreement between LAS and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), which will remain in force up to 1992; and by the Arab Project for the Advancement of Children, which is a survey designed to determine the economic, social and medical reasons for deaths among infants and children. Participating organizations, namely, UNFPA, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), WHO, the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development of the United Nations Secretariat, the United Nations Statistical Office and LAS and its pertinent organizations and Ministerial Council, should be

invited to maintain their support for the project, in order that it may be extended to all countries of the Arab world.

31. Studies and seminars on the situation of Arab migrants in Europe should be organized in the context of the current changes in Eastern Europe prior to the establishment of European unity in 1992. The General Secretariat of LAS, ILO, UNFPA, ESCWA, the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) should be invited to implement such programmes.

The family and 1994 as the International Year of the Family

32. In preparation for the commemoration of the International Year of the Family in 1994 in accordance with General Assembly resolution 44/82 of 8 December 1989, efforts should be instituted to draw up programmes to be implemented through co-operation between LAS and its specialized organizations and councils on the one hand, and the United Nations and its pertinent agencies on the other. Such programmes would concentrate on the following four major themes: eradication of both conventional and cultural illiteracy; information and education on health matters; development of productivity programmes to be conducted by women; and addressing the results of disasters and catastrophes affecting the situation of women and children.

Women

33. The United Nations system and LAS should: (a) endeavour to implement recommendations adopted by the Conference on Socio-economic Challenges for the 1990s: Arab Women's Contribution to Development (Cairo, 20-23 May 1990), which was convened by UNDP and co-sponsored by the General Secretariat of LAS and ESCWA with a view to integrating Arab women into the development process; and (b) endeavour to implement the recommendations of the Seminar on Women and Environment, held in co-operation between LAS and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

34. The General Secretariat of LAS, UNDP and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) should hold a seminar on the role of Arab women in the development of home economics and social education, with the participation of UNESCO and ALECSO.

Children

35. The General Secretariat of LAS and UNICEF should continue to implement current programmes conducted by UNICEF in areas such as health, education and clean water supplies, as well as on joint activities such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child, dissemination of that Convention's principles and the World Summit for Children and its related declaration and plan of action.

36. LAS, UNICEF, WHO, the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO), UNESCO and ESCWA should devote attention to the education,

health and environmental protection of Arab children, their protection in conditions of stress and danger, and encouragement of peace-loving attitudes among them.

Youth

37. LAS and UNEP should take appropriate action to convene a study seminar in preparation for the formulation of a plan to encourage youth organizations to solve environmental pollution problems.

38. The General Secretariat of LAS, UNESCO, FAO and the United Nations Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs should endeavour to implement the Arab youth farm project in its developmental, scientific and cultural aspects.

Narcotic drugs

39. It was recommended that the United Nations agencies concerned and LAS co-operate in the following areas: (a) in combating and preventing abuse of narcotic drugs and halting their rapid propagation and distribution in countries and communities; in drawing up a joint strategy with a view to curbing this dangerous phenomenon of narcotic drugs as it continues to spread, taking advantage of developments in technology; (b) in improving the standards of personnel working on aspects of combating and preventing drug abuse by means of periodic courses, seminars and joint encounters; (c) in providing aid and assistance to poor countries that depend economically and financially on the cultivation of hashish, with a view to enabling those countries to replace such cultivation by other crops that yield material benefits for their peoples; (d) in censuring and punishing those States which aid the smuggling and propagation of this scourge, particularly those which try to weaken the work-forces of different peoples and to paralyse those populations' intellectual capacities by converting creative individuals into weak and debilitated beings; (e) in intensifying and co-ordinating efforts to exchange information and devoting attention to the issue of surrendering criminals and drug traffickers to States in accordance with bilateral or multilateral agreements; and (f) in organizing a seminar on the role of youth in the war against drugs.

Disasters

40. UNDRO agreed to co-operate with LAS: (a) in the exchange of information and contacts and the conduct of a survey on the likelihood of disasters occurring in the Arab world in the light of the circumstances and conditions of each country; Arab States should meanwhile provide UNDRO with the information and data required to complete the survey; (b) in providing assistance to Arab States for the formulation of national plans for relief and response to disasters as they occur, together with the creation of relief bodies that would be prepared and ready to act in the event of such an occurrence; and (c) in the formulation of a regional training programme for the Arab world to develop the capacities and enhance the competence of personnel doing relief work.

Internal migration

41. The meeting recognized the need for co-operation between LAS and its organizations and the United Nations and its agencies for the purpose of addressing the adverse impact of internal migration problems and reducing its effects on future migrant communities. Under present conditions, this phenomenon inflates the populations of cities and gives rise to random housing developments and belts of poverty, which urgently require health, education and accommodation services.

Special categories

42. A joint endeavour should be made by Arab and international organizations with respect to the disabled, the elderly and the homeless, to provide the assistance and services required to improve their conditions and integrate them into the development process.

## E. Education, science, culture and information

Education

43. It was agreed that the United Nations agencies concerned and LAS would endeavour to:

(a) Organize a regional ministerial conference on education (MINEDARAB) in January 1991 (UNESCO/ALECSO);

(b) Organize International Literacy Year (UNESCO/UNICEF/ALECSO);

(c) Implement action on the recommendations of the World Conference on Education for All (UNESCO/UNICEF/ALECSO);

(d) Undertake production of instructional computer programmes in Arabic for dissemination to Arab States (ALECSO/UNESCO);

(e) Organize a training course for key Arab personnel working on educational techniques relevant to planning, administration and production (ALECSO/UNESCO);

(f) Exchange information on programmes, audio-visual and broadcasting materials and publications relevant to aspects of education and science directed to benefit children and mothers for a better life (ALECSO/UNEP/UNESCO/UNICEF/LAS Department of Social Affairs);

(g) Establish a television studio at ALECSO headquarters for the production of education programmes (ALECSO/UNICEF/UNESCO/UNDP).

Education of Palestinians

44. It was recommended that co-operation between the United Nations agencies concerned and LAS should be developed in the following areas:

(a) Education for students in the occupied Arab territories, through the use of television and radio programmes, owing to closures of schools and universities (ALECSO/United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)/UNICEF/UNESCO/LAS Department of Palestine Affairs);

(b) Examination of the difficulties and problems arising from the use of Arabic textbooks in schools of the occupied Arab territories and of finding adequate solutions (UNRWA/ALECSO/UNESCO/LAS Department of Palestine Affairs).

Environmental education

45. The United Nations system and LAS agreed to co-operate in the field of environmental education and public awareness (LAS Department of Economic Affairs/ALECSO/UNEP/UNESCO) and increase co-operation with regard to environmental education for Arab women and children (ALECSO/LAS Department of Social Affairs/UNEP/UNESCO/UNICEF).

Science

46. The United Nations agencies and LAS agreed to co-operate in:

(a) Development of inter-Arab co-operation in the field of biotechnology (UNESCO/ALECSO/UNEP/UNDP/UNIDO/Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD)/Arab Council of Scientific Research and other international/regional intergovernmental organizations);

(b) Development of inter-Arab co-operation in the field of protection of the Mediterranean environment (UNESCO/ALECSO/UNEP/Arab Centre for the Study of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD);

(c) Development of inter-Arab co-operation in the field of informatics (ALECSO/UNDP/UNESCO);

(d) Organization of the Second Conference of Arab Ministers of Scientific Research (ALECSO/UNESCO);

(e) Translation of English for global dissemination of the science strategy published in Arabic by ALECSO (ALECSO/UNESCO);

(f) Reduction of earthquake risk related to the Arab region (ALECSO/UNDRO/UNESCO);

(g) Training and research with the United Nations University (UNESCO/ALECSO/LAS Department of Social Affairs);

(h) Training and publication of scientific documentation in the field of hydrology (UNESCO/ACSAD);

(i) Regional conservation strategy (including presentation of nature and human life, ecological studies, use of natural resources of energy) (ALECSO/ACSAD/Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD)/LAS Department of Economic Affairs).

Culture

47. The United Nations system and LAS decided to co-operate in the:

(a) Framework of the World Decade for Cultural Development, particularly the project "ARABIA" (UNESCO/ALECSO);

(b) Development of inter-Arab co-operation for wide use and dissemination of the "Global Plan of the Arab Culture" published by ALECSO (ALECSO/UNESCO);

(c) Enforcement of the work already initiated for the cultural identity of the Palestinian people (UNESCO/ALECSO/LAS);

(d) Development of inter-Arab co-operation for the preservation of the Islamic cultural heritage of Jerusalem (ALECSO/UNESCO/LAS);

(e) Exchange of experiences and training in workshops in the field of copyright (UNESCO/ALECSO/World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)).

Information

48. It has been agreed that:

(a) The United Nations information centres and LAS will co-ordinate in the exchange of information and documentation related to the Palestinian issue and the situation of the Palestinian people under Israeli occupation;

(b) The concerned agencies will make efforts to sensitize international public opinion to the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, especially its rights to self-determination and independence;

(c) The agencies concerned will participate in meetings commemorating the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

## F. Communications

United Nations Environment Programme

49. UNEP will continue co-operation (a) in the struggle against desertification in the Arab States; (b) on industrial pollution in the Arab States in collaboration with the Arab Organization for Industrial Development; (c) in the field of environmental education and public awareness in collaboration with ALECSO; (d) in preparing for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to be held in 1992 in co-operation with ESCWA; and (e) in the establishment of a regional

committee of the Arab Development Institution on Environment called for by the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for Environment at its second session at Cairo in October 1989.

International Civil Aviation Organization

50. ICAO will continue to co-operate with LAS in promoting the safe and orderly growth of international civil aviation. ICAO wishes to maintain a close working relationship with LAS on matters of mutual concern through invitations to relevant meetings, participation in workshops and seminars, and exchange of documentation, and through correspondence and discussion. The ICAO Representative for the Middle East would contact the LAS secretariat for Economic Affairs at an early date to review matters of common interest relating to air transport. These would include: (a) review of matters of air transport policy, such as ICAO studies and guidance to States on international air transport regulation and tariffs, economic forecasting and planning and airport and route facility management; and (b) discussion on assistance to States in the provision of air navigation facilities and services and in the training of civil aviation personnel.

Universal Postal Union

51. UPU will provide technical assistance to the Arab Postal Academy at Damascus.

International Telecommunication Union

52. The meeting also called for:

(a) The strengthening of co-operation between the LAS secretariat and the UNDP/ITU MODARABTEL project RAB/89/001, in order to speed up implementation for the benefit of Arab member States;

(b) The organization of a yearly co-ordination meeting at the headquarters of LAS, between the concerned secretariat department of LAS and its specialized organizations, namely, the Arab States Broadcasting Union (ASBU), the Arab Satellite Communication Organization (ARABSAT) and any other concerned Arab regional secretariat, and the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) secretariat in order to discuss all joint matters related to the development of the telecommunication sector in the Arab world, and to propose joint actions. The first of such meetings could take place before the end of this year;

(c) The participation of the LAS secretariat in the ITU regional telecommunication development conferences. The first of such conferences for the African continent will take place at Harare in December 1990.

World Meteorological Organization

53. WMO will provide technical assistance to Arab weather observation stations to help them in developing their installations and upgrading their facilities.

54. WMO invited LAS and its specialized organizations, in particular the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF), ACSAD and ALECSO, to contribute to and co-operate with WMO and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in the establishment of the African Centre for Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD), which will contribute to the social and economic development of, inter alia, the Arab countries in Africa.

55. WMO expressed readiness to continue its technical assistance under its Voluntary Co-operation Programme and its regular budget to its Arab member countries during the LAS two-year programme of action, and to provide short-term expert services, spare parts, and short- and long-term fellowships in meteorology and operational hydrology.

56. It was recommended that the WMO Regional Meteorological Training Centres at Cairo and Baghdad be strengthened to provide for the education and training of national personnel in the Arab countries and for the transfer of new technologies and know-how in meteorology and operational hydrology.

57. The national meteorological and hydrological services in Arab countries would be strengthened to provide the necessary data and information for socio-economic development projects and for the effective monitoring of climatic changes and the protection of the atmospheric environment.

58. WMO invited AMF and other Arab development funds to contribute to the implementation of WMO activities and projects in Arab countries, in particular in participating in the joint funding of fellowships in meteorology and operational hydrology.

## G. Other areas of co-operation

### 1. Co-operation between the Arab Monetary Fund and specialized agencies of the United Nations system

#### (a) The Arab Monetary Fund and the United Nations Development Programme

59. Co-operation between AMF and UNDP has been concentrated primarily in three areas in the recent past. The following is a brief description of the areas of co-operation, an evaluation of the accomplishment and some proposals for the future direction and strengthening of this collaboration.

Inter-Arab trade

60. UNDP has made available $US 100,000 to AMF as a contribution to its ongoing studies on the promotion of intra-Arab trade. This has enabled AMF to study and draw on experiences of other regions in expanding trade between its member countries.

61. As a result of these studies, the Arab Trade Financing Programme (ATFP) was finally formally established in April 1989. The legal establishment of the programme concluded the first phase of this project between UNDP and AMF.

62. The second phase of the programme between UNDP and AMF represents assistance to AMF in establishing the working and technical procedures for the lending operation of the programme. UNDP has agreed that any funds remaining from the $US 100,000 authorized for this programme may be used for the preparation of the various operational manuals that would be needed for training both the newly appointed staff of the programme and the staff of the national agencies engaged in export and import activities in member countries. UNDP has suggested that AMF work out a detailed programme with such agencies as ITC and UNCTAD for the preparation of such manuals, as well as the design and implementation of data systems and the assignment of studies required for setting up policies and procedures in the medium term, e.g. supply and demand studies of intra-Arab trade. UNDP would consider further financial and technical aid to the programme on completion of the current intensive discussions with ITC and UNCTAD.

63. LAS hopes that UNDP will continue its assistance to ATFP until it begins its operation in the near future and thereby contribute to the realization of at least some of the vast potential of trade between Arab countries, which at present goes unnoticed and unfulfilled.

Training of government officials

64. AMF has created, on the basis of an extensive study carried out by a mission from AMF, the World Bank and IMF to the Arab countries, an economic policy institute designed to fill the gap in regional economic analysis and collaboration and become a centre of excellence for applied economic research.

65. Apart from certain training courses, the AMF Economic Policy Institute (EPI) carries out applied research and organizes, at least once a year, a high-level seminar on a topic of particular significance to the region. Part cipation in these seminars is by invitation and they are usually organized together with institutions with similar interests, such as AFESD, IMF and the World Bank. UNDP sponsored, together with those agencies and the AMF/EPI, a seminar on the role of the public and private sectors in structural adjustments, which was held at AMF headquarters at Abu Dhabi in December 1988.

66. LAS recommended that this fruitful relationship between EPI and UNDP be maintained and enlarged. One possibility is that regional courses for some of the poorer countries of the region, e.g. Djibouti, Somalia, the Sudan and Yemen could be prepared in collaboration with UNDP and with funding from them. Their needs are vast, especially for building up statistical data and analytical competence while their resources, as is well known, are very limited. The League recommended that AMF and UNDP contact each other to study ways and means of strengthening their collaboration in the training area.

The Arab Monetary Fund as an executing agency of the United Nations Development Programme

67. The meeting took note of the approaches between AMF and UNDP concerning this issue. It saw merit in reaching, as soon as possible, an agreement similar to that already concluded between UNDP and IMF.

Other projects

68. The meeting also recommended that contact be maintained with AMF and UNDP in order to establish ways and means of exchanging information on technical assistance needs and technical expertise available for service in member countries of AMF in areas of AMF competence. In this connection, the meeting urged UNDP to expand INRES-SOUTH data to include as soon as possible a larger number of Arabic-speaking experts in the economic and financial fields.

(b) The Arab Monetary Fund and the International Monetary Fund

69. The collaboration between AMF and IMF includes:

(a) IMF regular assistance to the AMF Economic Policy Institute. IMF also co-sponsors with AMF some of the high-level seminars mentioned earlier;

(b) AMF and IMF also exchange information on member countries and have an agreement to undertake joint technical assistance missions to member countries of the two institutions if they so desire.

(c) The Arab Monetary Fund and the World Bank

70. AMF is currently collaborating with the World Bank on two important projects. AMF has designed, in collaboration with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) of the World Bank Group, a programme for the development of capital markets in member countries of AMF (initially 10 member countries). An important element of this programme is the building up of a data base along the lines of the IFC Emerging Markets Data Base. This project has now advanced to the point of identifying correspondents in AMF member countries (usually bourses) and organizing courses for their staff on compilation and transmission of data to AMF for aggregation and analysis and then inclusion in the IFC world data base on capital markets.

71. The meeting noted that IFC provides its services on a full reimbursement basis and recommended that UNDP consider some financial assistance to this particular project of the development capital markets in Arab countries.

72. Another project is a joint study of external indebtedness of AMF member countries. Thirteen member countries of AMF have agreed to collaborate in undertaking the study. AMF and the World Bank will meet the cost of their own staff involved in the study. There is a need for financing to meet the cost of outside or international experts. Perhaps UNDP cou'd be involved in this and in the organization of subsequent seminars or forums for discussing the findings of these studies.

73. The World Bank also co-sponsors some of the EPI seminars and contributes lectures to its regular courses. This is done through World Bank's Economic Development Institute.

## 2. Department of Technical Co-operation for Development

74. Taking into consideration the existence of high-level Arab expertise in all technical fields, as well as the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and of the Governing Council of UNDP that call for increased numbers of experts from the developing countries to serve in United Nations programmes of technical assistance, the meeting:

(a) Called upon the United Nations and the specialized agencies of the United Nations system to take all possible measures to increase the number of Arab experts and consultants in technical assistance programmes;

(b) Called upon the Arab States to establish national recruitment services responsible for the search for Arab experts and nominating them for service with the United Nations and the specialized agencies;

(c) Called upon the United Nations and the specialized agencies to present LAS annually with data on the number of Arab experts who have been used for service in other developing countries;

(d) Called upon LAS and the Arab States to participate in the meeting of national recruitment services to be held at Bangkok from 24 to 28 September 1990 under the auspices of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, which will be attended by representatives of the specialized agencies of the United Nations system and will discuss all issues that concern the recruitment of international experts.

## 3. World Intellectual Property Organization

75. The principal objectives of co-operation between WIPO and LAS are the development of human resources, the establishment of reliable and efficient infrastructures (administrative, legal, etc.) and the promotion of awareness of the benefits that the intellectual property systems can bring to the Arab countries.

76. WIPO, as in the past, will continue to organize regular national, subregional and regional training courses, seminars and workshops on various aspects of intellectual property. Special attention will be paid as in the past to the training of national experts and their widest use in the technical assistance and development co-operation activities in the region.

77. Special projects of WIPO undertaken jointly with LAS or its specialized organizations concern the establishment of the Patent Information and Documentation Unit within the Federation of the Arab Scientific Research Councils (FASRC), assistance in the translation of the International Patent Classification (IPC) into Arabic, and the formulation of proposals for the establishment of regional co-operation in the field of industrial property.

## H. Other recommendations

Lebanon

78. LAS expressed its concern regarding the need to contribute to the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Lebanon. The relentless efforts of the United Nations through UNDRO to mobilize emerging relief assistance to Lebanon were noted with satisfaction, as well as the role that UNDP is trying to maintain, despite the difficult situation, in support of rehabilitation and reconstruction. Emphasis was equally placed on the role of all other United Nations agencies in fulfilling their respective mandates in Lebanon, encouraging them to implement all the programmes that will help in the reconstruction of the country. This process was seen as a necessary contribution towards the restoration of lasting peace in Lebanon.

General meeting in 1992

79. The meeting accepted with appreciation an invitation extended on behalf of the Executive Secretary of ESCWA to hold the next general meeting between representatives of the United Nations system and of LAS and its specialized organizations at ESCWA headquarters. The date of the meeting will be decided after consultations between the two organizations. The meeting of the sectoral co-ordinators will be held in 1991.

80. The meeting recommended that sectoral consultations on progress achieved and on future joint proposals be initiated by lead agencies and/or nominated focal points sufficiently in advance prior to convening the next joint meeting.

Designation of focal points

81. It was agreed that each organization/specialized agency designate a focal point (person and/or division) for contacts with the co-operating counterpart organs of the LAS organizations or the specialized agencies of the United Nations system.

Exchange of work plan

82. It was agreed that the co-operating organizations in both the United Nations system and LAS would exchange their work plan annually as well as biannually.

Avoiding duplication and/or overlapping

83. It was agreed that special efforts would be made by the co-operating organizations to avoid duplication and overlapping and ultimately make better use of the scarce resources available.

ANNEX I

Documents distributed at the meeting

| Symbol | Title |
|---|---|
| UN/LAS/JM/CRP.1 and Add.1 | Summary of proposals submitted by the League of Arab States for consideration of a two-year programme of co-operation |
| UN/LAS/JM/CRP.2 | Provisional agenda |
| UN/LAS/JM/CRP.3 | Working paper prepared by the League of Arab States |
| UN/LAS/JM/CRP.4 | Present and future co-operation between FAO and the League of Arab States |
| UN/LAS/JM/CRP.5 | Document on the Universal Postal Union's contribution to the Arab Postal Faculty in Damascus |

ANNEX II

Participants in the meeting

1. Representatives of the following departments and offices of the United Nations as well as of specialized agencies and other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system participated in the meeting: Department for Special Political Questions, Regional Co-operation, Decolonization and Trusteeship, Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), United Nations University (UNU), Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO), World Food Programme (WFP), International Labour Organisation (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), World Health Organization (WHO), Universal Postal Union (UPU), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), World Meteorological Organization (WMO), World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

2. Representatives of the following departments and organizations of the League of Arab States (LAS) participated in the meeting: General Department of Political and International Affairs, General Department of International Economic Relations, General Department of Social Affairs, Department of Palestine, Department of Health, Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO), Arab Centre for the Study of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD), Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD), Arab Labour Organization (ALO), Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) and Arab Interior Ministers Council (AIMC).

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